

First World Young Earth-Scientists Congress 2009 – V. M. Tiwari, NGRI, Hyderabad

A couple of years back, earth scientists across the world got together to demonstrate the potential of earth sciences in building of a safer, healthier and wealthier planet and launched an ambitious project of “International Year of Planet Earth” (IYPE). Soon after, the General Assembly of United Nations also proclaimed the year 2008 as IYPE. One, of the several, accomplishments of IYPE is the Young Earth Scientists (YES) network. The seed for this was sown during the IYPE Global launch event 12th–13th February 2008 when hundreds of students gathered, which was further pursued by young scientists from geological survey of Italy. YES is mainly a group of young geoscientists under 35 years of age that works in close collaboration with IYPE Corporation, and taking forward the science and outreach topics of the IYPE: health, climate, groundwater, ocean, soils, deep Earth, megacities, hazards, resources, and life. The interesting part of the whole project is its development through modern day communication system of emails, Skype- meetings etc. During the last meeting of IUGS at OSLO, 2008, it was decided by voice vote that the first meeting of YES would be held at Beijing, China (<http://www.yescongress2009.org>).

First YES Congress was organized by China University of Geosciences of Beijing during October, 25-28, 2009 on the focal theme “Young Earth-Scientists for Society”. About 250 delegates from 30 countries presented their papers. The congress was inaugurated by Mr Xu Shaoshi, Minister of Land and Resources, China. Efforts of Prof. Harsh Gupta, President Geological Society of India and Chair, Indian national committee on International Years, and partial financial support of Ministry of Earth Sciences made it possible for ten young Indian researchers to participate in this conference and make Indian presence felt. Some distinguished scientists spoke during the opening ceremony, including a presentation on Space Techniques for Hydrology by VM Tiwari. Delegates from India presented their research finding on the topics related to water, hazard, climate change, energy deep earth, ocean and Himalayan geology. Presentations on diverse topics by Indian participants give an idea about earth sciences research in India being carried out by young scientists. This was also a unique forum where all young researchers discussed their research, explored, and developed cooperation amongst fellow researchers.

The assembly was planned in two separate compartments. One was the contributory session and other was the round table discussion, in which selected young speakers were invited. The oral and poster sessions were divided into fourteen subthemes: underground water, disasters, the earth and health, energy, climate, mineral resources, megacities, deep earth, ocean, soil, life on earth, digital earth engineering, geo-heritage conservations, and Qinghai-Tibet plateau.

One of the main attention of the congress was roundtable session on six themes: (i) Issues facing education and research, (ii) Natural Hazards, (iii) Climate Change science, (iv) Natural Resources and energy sustainability, (v) International licensure, Industry-academic linkage, (vi) women in the geosciences workforce. Roundtable sessions were open to whole globe through the digital media. Many, who could not attend in person, had participated virtually in the roundtable session. It attracted a good response although the timing was not suitable to many parts of the world. YES Congress ended with a field excursion to Gushankou recumbent fold region and Shifa cave.

The second YES Congress will be held in conjunction with the 34th International Geological Congress (IUGS) in Brisbane, Australia in August 2012.

We hope that the brilliant and creative young earth-scientists around the world would make efforts to build a better future for our planet.



Participants from India (D. Shashidhar, Sandeep Gupta, Krishna Kumar, Ram Ratan Singh, V. M. Tiwari, Pallavi Banerjee, Kausik Chattopadhyay, A V Vyasulu, Ranjeet Kumar Prasad, Punyasloke Bhadury, Smita Humbarde, V. Rajesh)