

# The International Year of Planet Earth – 2007-2009

In December 2005, the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization with the support of all 191 member states proclaimed 2008, the central year of the triennium, as the UN Year of Planet Earth.

The International Year of Planet Earth is designed to foster outreach and research activities with the single purpose of raising worldwide public and political awareness of the vast potential of Earth Sciences for improving the quality of life and safeguarding the planet. The International Year of Planet Earth envisages a significantly expanded role for the Earth Sciences in building a healthier, safer and wealthier society.

The International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) Earth Science Division jointly initiated the project in 2000. The project has attracted several partners that actively support the initiative, among others, the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), the International Geographical Union (IGU), the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS), the Geological Society of London (GSL), the International Association of Engineering Geologists and the Environment (IAEG), the International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA), the American Geological Institute (AGI) and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG).

The scientific themes selected for the International Year of Planet Earth are:

- Groundwater: reservoir for a thirsty planet?
- Hazards: minimizing risk, maximizing awareness;
- Earth and Health: building a safer environment;



*The logo of the International Year of Planet Earth is being disseminated by kind permission of the German Ministry of Education and research and it consists of an inner circle (red) representing the solid Earth, then the biosphere in green and the hydrosphere in dark blue, above which is the pale blue atmosphere, all constituents of the Earth System.*

- Climate change: the 'stone tape';
- Resources: towards sustainable use;
- Megacities: our global urban future;
- Deep Earth: from crust to core;
- Ocean: abyss of time;
- Soil: Earth's living skin;
- Earth and Life: origins of diversity.

These themes have been defined on the basis of their relevance to society and brochures for all science themes are available at the Year's website <http://www.yearofplanetearth.org> or <http://www.esfs.org/> for download.

In Brazil, the IYPE celebrations will be led by several institutions and scientific organizations coordinated by the Brazilian Science Academy.