

## Promoting the International Year of Planet Earth in Hungary – lessons learned applicable in the Digital Earth context

Gábor REMETEY-FÜLÖPP, Károly BREZSNYÁNSZKY,  
László SZARKA, János HAAS, József ÁDÁM

The General Assembly of the UN has declared 2008 as the International Year of the Planet Earth (<http://www.yearofplanetearth.org>). As guiding document the Paris Declaration presented at the global launch event hosted by the UNESCO has been acknowledged. Under the slogan „Make the Earth a better space for humankind – Earth Sciences for Society“ emphasis was given a) to the scientific programs aiming to address issues on ten selected societal benefit areas and b) to the significant role of the IYPE and Earth sciences in promoting the sustainable use of Earth resources as well as c) to create respect for Planet Earth by raising public awareness.

In the paper the authors summarize the highlights and impacts of the IYPE-related activities in Hungary, one of the 80 participating countries worldwide.

IYPE activities of various geo-science associations, universities, research institutes, NGOs and private companies in Hungary ([www.foldev.hu](http://www.foldev.hu)) have been successfully coordinated by the Hungarian National Committee, which was established by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the UNESCO- and the IUGS National Committees.

Highlights of the activities in 2008 and 2009 include

- Proposed by HUNAGI and seconded by EuroGeoSurveys, the UN Spatial Data Infrastructure project was mentioned in the Paris Declaration as tool for producing global, digital, and publicly available information on System Earth (February 2008)
- National Launch Event (April, 2008) and an “Earth Science Fair” at the Hungarian Natural History Museum,
- IYPE was briefly reviewed in the Hungarian Parliament,
- Science Festival of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences having a special IYPE-inspired slogan: “Science for the Habitable Earth”, where lectures were held about the modern content of the Greek Classical Elements and about the Humanity,
- Numerous publications (including the Hungarian version of the IYPE booklet series),
- Symposia (e.g. HUNGEO 2008, ELGI 100, MÁFI 140, Geotourism Symposium, Earth and Heaven – Geology and Theology),
- Contests film shows and other performances with increasing media coverage,
- Worldwide premier of the Planet Earth TV in Hungary (at the Scientific Assembly of IAGA August, 2009, [www.iaga2009sopron.hu](http://www.iaga2009sopron.hu)).
- Among the scientific programmes the activity of Geological Institute of Hungary in the OneGeology initiative should be at first mentioned,
- In 2007/2008, among the main environmental challenges, it was exclusively the so-called “global warming” in the focal point of public interest in Hungary. By now, the importance of soil, groundwater and energy have been also recognized, mainly due to IYPE.

At a recent meeting of „Europe in Digital Earth“ hosted by JRC in Ispra, Health, Biodiversity and Risk Management were suggested as identified integrator elements of the scientific research areas into Digital Earth. Considering, these topics are also among the ten societal benefit areas of IYPE (namely Earth & Health, Earth & Life and Hazards) it is anticipated, synergy can be achieved in Digital Earth by adopting lessons learned both in scientific research and related awareness raising.

Dr. Gábor REMETEY-FÜLÖPP

Hungarian Association for Geo-information  
1122 Budapest Pethényi út 11/b  
Tel: +36 30 4158276, [gabor.remetey@gmail.com](mailto:gabor.remetey@gmail.com)

Dr. Károly BREZSNYÁNSZKY,

Geological Institute of Hungary  
1143 Budapest Stefánia út 14  
Tel: +36 1 251 0999, Fax: +36 1 251 0703, [brezsnnyanszky@mafi.hu](mailto:brezsnnyanszky@mafi.hu)

Prof. Dr. László SZARKA

Geodetic and Geophysical Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences,  
Sopron, Hungary  
Tel: +36 99 508355, [szarka@ggki.hu](mailto:szarka@ggki.hu)

Dr. János HAAS,

Hungarian Geological Society  
1027 Budapest Fő utca 68  
Tel: +36 1 2241404, [haas@ludens.elte.hu](mailto:haas@ludens.elte.hu)

Prof. Dr. József ÁDÁM,

Department of Geodesy and Surveying  
Budapest University of Technology and Economics  
1111 Budapest Műegyetem rkt. 3  
Tel: +36 1 463 1146, Fax: +36 1 463 3209, [jadam@sci.fgt.bme.hu](mailto:jadam@sci.fgt.bme.hu)