

## **Annual Report 2011**

### **Summary**

In 2011, the Earth Science Matters Foundation became effective. The September Board meeting has been decisive for the direction of its operations, its final organisational structure and its conceptual targets. By the end of 2011, the organisation is well in place, the website is live, four organisations joined as a Partner, nine countries decided to establish a National Committee and the first projects were completed.

### **Organisation**

The Foundation was shaped at the Board meeting on 4 September which was held in conjunction with the Fragile Earth Conference in Munich, Germany. On that occasion the Foundation received its final name *Earth Science Matters* and a Secretariat was established. The Board was expanded by the installation of Sierd Cloetingh and Sospeter Muhongo as new Board members while Eduardo de Mulder exchanged his initial Board position for that of the Executive Director of the Secretariat. Wolfgang Eder is the Chair of the Board. Moreover, the focal areas for the Foundation were determined: Energy, Water, Hazards/disasters and Climate Change. The ten IYPE themes remain as targets for the Foundation's operations together with the eight UN Millennium Development Goals. The Foundation will operate in a top-down mode by determining themes or focal areas, but also in a bottom-up mode through its National Committees, Partners, organizations and individuals proposing relevant projects including budgets for implementation. Four distinguished Earth scientists accepted to become a Senior Advisors of the Foundation: Jack Hess (Executive Director GSA), Edmund Nickless (Executive Secretary of the Geological Society of London), Werner Janoschek and Ralph Baird, both Founding Board members of the IYPE. In compliance with the decisions taken at the Board meeting the Statutes were revised and registered by notary on 1 December 2011.

### **Partners**

In 2011, the Foundation enjoyed formal Partnership with four international organisations: the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), the International Association for Mathematical Geosciences (IAMG), the International Lithosphere Programme (ILP) and World Soil Information (ISRIC). Through their membership fees Partners contributed financially to the Foundation. In return, Partners received exposure through the Earth Science Matters media as described under Outreach. Together with its Partners, the Foundation developed joined projects often geared at further increase of their outreach capacities.

## **National Committees**

Following the Board meeting, guidelines were developed for the establishment of National Committees. From mid October onwards representatives of former National Committees of the International Year of Planet Earth were approached to consider establishing a National Committee for the Earth Science Matters Foundation. By the end of 2011, National Committees are in the process of establishment in nine countries in four continents while five more are in positive consideration to do so.

## **Projects**

The first Projects the Foundation embarked on concerned preparation of the Board meeting and production of the Final Report of the International Year of Planet Earth. A major subsidy for realising these Projects was granted by the Dutch Ministry of Economy, Agriculture and Innovation. Both Projects were implemented and reported before the end of 2011. Preparations for several other projects, including outreach for the TOPO-EUROPE Programme, developing an additional outreach programme for Partner IAMG, and preparation of the second Board meeting (at the International Geological Congress, in August 2012).

## **Outreach**

Following the September Board meeting a new logo for the Foundation was designed and was assessed by the Board, late October. Simultaneously, the Earth Science Matters website ([www.earthsciencematters.org](http://www.earthsciencematters.org)) became effective with a welcome message. In the last two months of 2011, the website was expanded. A dedicated brochure describing the aims and ambitions of the Foundation became available by the end of November. An electronic version of that brochure is posted on the website together with the Final Report of the IYPE.

## **Presentations**

In 2011, presentations about the Foundation were given in February at the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IUGS in Paris (France), in April at the annual General Assembly of the European Geoscientists Union (EGU) in Vienna (Austria), early September at the Fragile Earth Conference in Munich (Germany), late September at the European Geoparks Conference in Langesund near Oslo (Norway), in October at the annual Conference of the Geological Society of America, in November at an International Geomorphological Conference in Shaoguan (China), and in December at the First Conference of African-Arabian Geoparks in Al-Jadida (Morocco).