

The IHY/United Nations Distributed Observatory Development Program

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A major thrust of the International Heliophysical Year (IHY) is to deploy arrays of small, inexpensive instruments such as magnetometers, radio antennas, GPS receivers, all-sky cameras, etc. around the world to provide global measurements of ionospheric, magnetospheric, and heliospheric phenomena. This program is a collaboration between the IHY and the United Nations Basic Space Science Initiative (UNBSSI), which has been dedicated to the IHY through 2009.

The small instrument program consists of a partnership between instrument providers and instrument host countries. The lead scientist provides the instrumentation (or fabrication plans for instruments) in the array; the host country provides manpower, facilities, and operational support to obtain data with the instrument, typically at a local university.

This program has been active in deploying instrumentation, developing plans for new instrumentation, and identifying educational opportunities for the host nations in association with this program. We will discuss the program's status, significant deployment activities, and plans for 2007-2009.