



The International Heliophysical Year

R. Harrison

Space Science and Technology Department, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, UK

Marking the 50th anniversary of the highly successful International Geophysical Year (IGY), in 1957, several groups world-wide are making plans for multidisciplinary and multinational campaigns, mainly as part of an International Polar Year (IPY). As part of this, there will be an International Heliophysical Year (IHY) project in which we provide some co-ordination of the many solar, heliospheric and near-Earth spacecraft and ground-based observatories, for specific scientific campaigns. Plans for IHY have been under discussion since 2001, with sessions at the 2002 World Space Congress in Houston and the 2003 and 2004 EGU meetings in Nice. IHY is NOT designed to be another red-tape activity. It is being set up as an enabling activity for the grass-roots scientist to drive co-ordinated observations and one of the basic concepts under discussion is a grander version of the SOHO Joint Observing Programme approach in which individuals can quite easily 'apply' for time on multiple instruments. The IHY organising committee has set up a Web site at ihy.gsfc.nasa.gov/ and is in the process of setting up detailed arrangements for the running of the IHY project. In this talk, the plans for IHY will be outlined and methods for involvement will be discussed. In particular, at this time, we need community input, to ensure the best possible exploitation of this project.