



2007: The International Heliophysical Year - a great opportunity for expanding the education and public awareness of Space and Earth Sciences

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Fifty years after the International Geophysical Year (IGY) in 1957, the International Heliophysical Year (IHY) represents a logical next-step, extending the studies into the heliosphere and thus including the drivers of geophysical change.

The basic objectives of IHY are: advancing our understanding of the physical processes that govern the Sun, Earth and Heliosphere; continuing the tradition of international research and advancing the legacy on the 50th anniversary of the International Geophysical Year; demonstrating the beauty, relevance and significance of Space and Earth Science to the World.

The IHY is being coordinated by an international committee, involving hundreds of observatories and institutions worldwide. The central coordination is hosted by the American Geophysical Union. Also, the United Nations Basic Space Science Initiative (UNBSSI) will dedicate its activities through 2009 to the IHY effort, targeting activities in developing nations, such as the IHY/UNBSSI Small Instrument Array Deployment.

The IHY is an exceptional opportunity for inspiring the next generation of Space and Earth scientists and explorers; and for spreading the knowledge on our solar system and on the exciting process of scientific exploration to the public.

The IHY activities and concept are described in detail at the official IHY website at <http://ihy2007.org>.