



The YES Network: IYPE's Motto "Earth Sciences for Society" in Action

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The YES Network is an international association of early-career geoscientists who are primarily under the age of 35 years and are currently engaged in the geosciences in organizations from across the world. The YES Network was formed as a result of the International Year of Planet Earth in 2007. The YES Network aims to establish an interdisciplinary global network of individuals committed to solving these challenges, and furthering the IYPE motto of "Earth Sciences for Society".

In 2009, in collaboration with the IYPE and under the patronage of UNESCO, the YES Network organized its first international Congress at the China University of Geosciences in Beijing, China. The Congress focused on climate, environmental and geoscience challenges facing today's society, as well as career and academic pathway challenges faced by early-career geoscientists. More than 300 young geoscientists from across the world attended the conference to present their research and participate in the oral, poster, and roundtable symposia. The roundtable symposia engaged senior and early-career geoscientists via presentations, panel discussions, and working group sessions. These symposia were broadcast as 'live' webinars to increase international participation. As a result, 41 "virtual" participants from 10 countries and 16 "virtual" speakers from 5 countries were able to participate in these discussions.

Since October, the YES Network has continued to expand its membership and develop more projects aligned with the "Earth Sciences for Society" motto. The YES Network is continuing to develop its website and social media networks to increase communication between YES Network members on local, regional and international scales, and it is developing resources to aid early-career geoscientists with opportunities for professional development, international collaboration, and involvement in outreach activities.

Members of the YES Network are actively forming connections between the YES Network and the major international geoscience associations. The YES Network presented talks about the development of YES Network and about the October meeting at the American Geophysical Union's Fall Meeting. At the EGU 2010 meeting, the YES Network has organized symposia on ocean acidification and the "OneGeology" initiative. In 2011, the YES Network will be organizing poster, oral and roundtable sessions at the CAG23 meeting in Johannesburg. In 2012, the second international YES Congress will be held in conjunction with the 34th IGC. Other YES Network projects currently underway include a survey of the international community of young and early-career geoscientists pertaining to decision points in their academic and career paths, and a research project pertaining to mineral resources in Africa.

The YES Network is able to function as a dynamic association because of several factors. It is comprised of young geoscientists who use technology to communicate and collaborate in ways that were not available to previous generations. Second, the YES Network has built its mission around the IYPE motto "Earth Sciences for Society.". The YES Network, via its use of web-based technologies, is able to progressively influence society's focus on geoscience issues because of the YES Network's ability to easily and effectively collaborate internationally on projects, build linkages within the international geoscience community, and create outreach activist that inform the general public.