

IESO History

The idea of International Earth Science Olympiad (**IESO**) was first put forth by Earth Scientists from Korea before 2003. In 2003, Korean Earth Science Society (KESS) organized the First Korean Earth Science Olympiad (1st KESO). 2nd (2004) and 3rd (2005) KESOs have been organized successfully.

IESO was adopted as one of major activities of International Geoscience Education Organization (IGEO) during International Council Meeting held in Calgary, Canada during the Fourth International Conference on Geoscience Education (GeoSciEd IV) on April, 2003. IESO Committee with Chan-Jong Kim, Korea as Chairperson, was established with 10 members. During IGC32 held in Florence, Italy in August, 2004, Eduardo de Mulder, and Ted Nield of International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE) management team agreed to support IESO as one of activities for IYPE.

Seoul IESO Conference was held in November 2004 in Seoul and representatives from ten countries participated and discussed the earth science curricula and the desirable format of IESO. 23 presentations were made and IESO Coordinating Committee was established with 11 members including the chairperson, Moo Young Song. IESO Committee was renamed as IESO Advisory Committee. Statutes for IESO were also finalized. In 2005, IESO Syllabus Commission was established with Nir Orion as the Chairperson. The first draft of the IESO Syllabus was developed. IESO logo was designed and approved by the IESO Advisory Committee in March 2006.

In the first meeting of IESO Coordinating Committee held during the Seoul Conference, it was concluded that Korea offered the best conditions and the most favourable atmosphere for the First IESO. This, together with a great personal contribution by Prof. Moo Young Song, resulted in the First International Earth Science Olympiad that took place in Korea in 2007.

The IESO is an annual competition for secondary school students not older than 18 years on 1st July of the year of the Olympiad. The students have to test their skills in all major areas of Earth sciences, including geology, geophysics, meteorology, oceanography, terrestrial astronomy and environmental sciences. The theoretical examination includes problems which are supposed to measure the participants knowledge and understanding of Earth science areas. The practical examination consists of tasks which are designed to assess participants' abilities to carry out scientific investigations in earth science inquiries. The examinations are prepared by specialists in Earth sciences and Earth science education, who also provide solutions and evaluation guidelines.

Each delegation is composed of 4 students and 2 supervisors/Mentors. The latter must be specialists in Earth science and Earth science education and capable of serving as members of the International Jury. The official language of IESO is English; however, the supervisors may translate the written examinations and related materials into the participants native language.

The IESO is the only International Olympiad that includes an International Team Field Investigation ITFI.