

The road to International Earth Science Olympiad

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International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO) is geoscience competition for high school students organized by International Geoscience Education Organization (IGEO). IGEO was established in 2000 and the aims of IGEO are to promote geoscience education internationally at all levels, to work for enhancement of the quality of geoscience education internationally and to encourage developments raising public awareness of geoscience, particularly amongst younger people. International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) supports this IESO program. According to its Commission Action Plan 2005-2006, IUGS International Commission on Geoscience Education, Training and Technology Transfer (COGE) mentioned to encourage countries to participate in the Earth Science Olympiad. Now IGEO works closely with COGE in some projects.

The commemorative first IESO was held on October, 2007 in Korea. Seven countries participated and it was successfully ended. The Japanese observer delegation was dispatched from Japan Geoscience Union (JGU) in order to assess the validity whether the Japanese delegation participates in IESO. We decided the participation since the 2008 IESO in Philippines and to establish the Japan Earth Science Olympiad Committees after the careful discussion at JGU committee on IESO.