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Promoting Young Earth Scientists for Future Earth from G20+ to the World



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Sustainable development is a process for meeting human development goals while sustaining the ability of natural systems to continue to provide the natural resources and ecosystem services upon which the economy and society depend. Despite the international agenda towards sustainable development goals, unbalanced development in many regions still exists. Development relies on the use of natural resources by large numbers of people from both developing and developed countries. The Earth science community has a strong role to play in fostering human capacity and encouraging research in order to use resources in a sustainable way to meet the demands of a growing global population.

But what kind of earth scientists do we need? How can we provide relevant training in different parts of the world especially in developing countries? International and national leading institutions have begun discussions on these topics. The latest Initiative “*Future Earth*” led by the International Council for Science (ICSU) aims to bring together institutions and experts and, in partnership with existing programmes on global environmental change, coordinate new, interdisciplinary approaches to research on three themes: i) Dynamic Planet, ii) Global Sustainable Development and iii) Transformations towards Sustainability. At the same time, the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) has launched the new initiative “*Future Resource*” with the vision to “*Resource future Generations*”, related directly to the earth sciences. Based on requests from the African National Committees of the International Year of Planet Earth, the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) announced a new Earth Science Education Initiative for Africa in 2008. This Initiative, cognizant of the challenge of isolation, has launched the Africa Network of Earth Science Institutions (ANESI) which, at its core, is developing a database of earth sciences institutions and experts in Africa in cooperation with the Geological Society of Africa (GSAf). In addition, the International University Consortium in Earth Science (IUCES) was established in 2013 consisting of 11 universities with Earth Science Major courses and a Secretariat hosted at the China University of Earth Science (Wuhan).

G20+ here stands for “*Geology*” 20+, as the first Forum in the International Geological Congress (IGC) for the leading institutions of Earth Sciences of the G20 nations. We will invite leaders, presidents, and directors from several universities, institutions, ministries, companies and other stakeholders to work together to share with us their ideas of:

- How to work on Geoeducation effectively in different regions?
- What is the principal duty of the next generation of earth scientists in Africa, Middle East, Small Islands and other regions?

- How can Geoethics be promoted with Geoeducation?
- The role of Young Earth Scientist network (YES) within Future Earth discussions.
- The future of Geoeducation within university, company and international organizations and other related topics.
- How to engage relevant stakeholders from G20 nations in the formulation of global coordinated actions.

At the same time, the “*plus*” is there to remind us that the discussion is always open to other countries and the whole global earth science community.

