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First World Young Earth Scientists (YES) Congress to be held 25-28 October 2009 at the China University of Geosciences in Beijing, China

Alexandria, VA – The Young Earth Scientists for Society (YES) network, an association of earth scientists under the age of 35 years representing geological societies from around the world, in collaboration with the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE), is organizing a world congress for young earth scientists, policy makers, advisors and decision makers.

The conference will discuss global climate, environmental and geological challenges facing today's society, and establish an interdisciplinary global network of individuals committed to solving these challenges.

The YES Congress will be held at the China University of Geosciences, in Beijing, China from 25-28 October 2009. Abstracts for contributed oral presentations, poster presentations, and roundtable symposia will be accepted until 30 March 2009. For more information visit <http://www.yescongress2009.org/index.php>.

The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed January 2007 to December 2009 as the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE). The proclamation of the year has served as a contribution to the UN sustainable development targets because it promotes sustainable use of Earth's resources and encourages better planning and management to reduce risks for the world's inhabitants. Making earth science knowledge accessible and promoting the development of the upcoming generation of earth-system scientists are two key goals of IYPE. The YES Congress is committed to forming an international network of young earth scientists, future policy makers, industry leaders, and media representatives to work together to solve the environmental challenges facing today's society.

The American Geological Institute and the Geological Society of America are the U.S. organizations involved in the Young Earth Scientist Congress. The American Geological Institute is a nonprofit federation of 45 geoscientific and professional associations that represents more than 120,000 geologists, geophysicists and other earth scientists. Founded in 1948, AGI provides information services to geoscientists, serves as a voice of shared interests in the profession, plays a major role in strengthening geoscience education, and strives to increase public awareness of the vital role the geosciences play in society's use of resources, resiliency to natural hazards, and interaction with the environment.

The Geological Society of America, founded in 1888, is a scientific society with 22,000 members from academia, government, and industry in more than 90 countries. Through its meetings, publications, and

programs, GSA enhances the professional growth of its members and promotes the geosciences in the service of humankind. Headquartered in Boulder, Colorado, GSA encourages cooperative research among earth, life, planetary, and social scientists, fosters public dialogue on geoscience issues, and supports all levels of earth science education.

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