



## First Annual Earth Science Week in USA set for October

As a part of its 50th anniversary celebration, the American Geological Institute (AGI) this year established Earth Science Week, an event scheduled for October 11–17 to promote and recognize earth science. The goal for Earth Science Week is to have every geoscientist in the country do something in their community to promote the earth sciences. AGI's role in sponsoring an annual Earth Science Week is to provide a clearinghouse for ideas, activities, and special events and to provide support materials that make it easy for geoscientists to participate.

At the same time, AGI is working to secure a national proclamation from President Clinton. The governors of 15 states have already issued Earth Science Week proclamations and resolutions and more are expected to follow. A common thread in the proclamations is recognition that geology and the earth sciences are fundamental to society and to our quality of life. An understanding of geology and the earth sciences can help citizens make wise decisions for land management and use, is crucial to addressing environmental and ecological issues, and provides the basis for preparing for and for mitigating natural hazards.

Earth Science Week has enormous potential for increasing public awareness and understanding of the importance of the earth sciences in our lives. The celebration, which will be held annually during the second full week of October, will give geoscientists and organizations a focal point for

- giving students new opportunities to discover the earth sciences,
- highlighting the contributions that the earth sciences make to society,
- publicizing the message that earth science is all around us,
- encouraging stewardship of the Earth, and
- developing a mechanism for sharing knowledge and enthusiasm about the Earth and how it works.

Earth Science Week activities will focus on education. In addition to an Earth Science Week information kit, AGI is producing a variety of educational materials this year. A colorful 18"×24" poster on Geoscience Careers, the Earth Science Week Ideas and Activities booklet, and a poster on Soils featuring a student activity are available. A 40-minute Careers video has been released. In addition, three modules of middle-school curriculum student and teacher activities will be available this fall, as will the booklet of general interest, *Sustaining*

*Our Soils and Society*. The booklet is part of AGI's Environmental Awareness series.

"Reaching our objectives for Earth Science Week requires strategic planning, good ideas, and a lot of work." AGI President Susan Landon said. "Leading a field trip, visiting a class room, talking to a community group, writing an article, hosting an open house, and working with scouts or other youth group, and planning an earth science event or exhibit at a library, nature center, or museum are just a few of the possibilities for celebrating Earth Science Week," she added.

Geoscience organizations have responded enthusiastically to the idea, and AGI member societies and state geological surveys are planning Earth Science Week activities and events.

The American Geological Institute is a not-for-profit federation of 32 professional organizations in the Earth Sciences representing more than 100,000 geologists, geophysicists, and other earth and environmental scientists.

Information about Earth Science Week is available from the American Geological Institute and on the World Wide Web at <http://www.earthsciweek.org>.

## Proposed IGCP Project on Caribbean plate tectonics

A new IGCP Project about Caribbean plate tectonic models (CARIB-PT) was proposed during the 15th Caribbean Geological Conference held last June 28, July 2 1998 in Jamaica.

The project will be aimed as a five-year evaluation of plate tectonic models for the Caribbean realm in order to encourage a critical review of present day models and try to reach an agreement concerning the basic facts that should serve as a framework for the formulation of a new set of improved models and to design the kind of research required approaching a deepest understanding of the Caribbean tectonic history. The project members will meet minimum once a year, within the Caribbean area, in order to run a 3–5 day field transect along key areas, and will organize a by-annual 3–4 day Workshop in order to evaluate plate tectonic interpretations of key areas within the Caribbean realm. During the five years the main subjects to be evaluated will be:

1. Nature and origin of the present and past Caribbean crusts,
2. Composition and origin of the Caribbean plateau,
3. The geometry, composition and evolution of the arc's volcanism,
4. Geology and geodynamic of the past and present plates margins,
5. Pros and cons of current plate tectonic models
6. Testability of current plate tectonic models (geophysics, paleontology, stratigraphy, absolute dating, etc.)

The first meeting will be held early in the year 2000 with the subject "Caribbean Plate Tectonic Models, state of the art in the year 2000".

The precise date and location of the year 2000 symposium will be fixed after the IGCP Scientific Board meeting to be held in February 1999.

All those interested in the project and the symposium are kindly requested to contact:

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