

UNESCO Student Contest

Dublin, , 22 October 2007

As part of the celebrations of the International Year of the Planet Earth, which begins on 1st January 2008, Minister Eamon Ryan today announced the launch of the UNESCO Student Contest in Ireland. The competition is being administered within his Department by the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI).

International Year of the Planet Earth is an initiative to promote the understanding of the role that the landscape and geoscience plays in our lives. The competition is aimed at college students aged 18-22 in the Republic and Northern Ireland. Up to five winning students will be selected from Ireland and will then participate in a major international conference at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris on 12th and 13th February 2008.

Commenting on the launch of the competition Minister Ryan said, *"This competition is a wonderful opportunity for students to be inspired by their local environment and landscape.*

I believe that geosciences hold the key to the sustainable management of our environment. Geoscience can teach us about how to develop our natural resources and infrastructure with the lowest possible environmental impact and help us to understand and predict natural hazards. I hope that the International Year of the Planet next year can educate a wide audience of people about the importance of caring for our planet."

Students undertaking the contest are asked to consider issues such as climate change, natural hazards, the "deep earth" and oceans. Winning students will meet world leaders in politics, science and industry, and as well as other international students, to celebrate the geoscience issues that are important in managing our planet.

Entries could range from an essay, to a song, to a video message which provides insight and understanding into any of these themes.

The competition closes on Thursday 15th November 2007.

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment Northern Ireland, the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland and the Royal Irish Academy are all proud supporters of this initiative.

www.planeteearth.ie/unescocontest

UNESCO Student Contest

A competition for third level students aged 18-22

This competition is open to all third level students in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. The competition offers students the chance to take part in the Global Launch Event for the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE). The event will be held in the UNESCO headquarters, Paris, on Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th February 2008.

During this Event world leaders in politics, science and industry will share their views and visions on the challenges facing the planet. 350 students from around the world will be invited to participate in the Global Launch Event. Five places are available for students from the island of Ireland. It is considered that the creativity and perception of these students will contribute to new perspectives on the major themes of the International Year of Planet Earth.

How to enter

Send an essay, poem, song, drawing, painting, photograph or video message competition entry; along with the official application form to the Geological Survey of Ireland (to the address as detailed on the application form). Please read the terms and conditions before you enter.

Entries should address one or more of the topics below in a creative way. This might vary from writing an essay, song or poem, producing a drawing or painting, making a short video film, a cartoon story, a photograph, etc. Information about these topics can be found at

<http://www.esfs.org/downloads.htm>

- " Groundwater- towards sustainable use
- " Hazards- minimising risk, maximising awareness
- " Earth and Health- building a safer environment
- " Climate- the 'Stone tape'
- " Earth's Resources- towards sustainable use
- " Megacities- going deeper, building safer
- " Deep Earth- from crust to core
- " Ocean- the abyss of time
- " Soil- Earth's living skin
- " Earth and Life- the origins of diversity

Students should note the following entry limits:

- " Essay: maximum of 1600 (sixteen hundred) words
- " Poem/Song: maximum of 400 (four hundred) words
- " Drawing/painting/photograph: maximum A3
- " Video message: maximum of 10 (ten) minutes

Entries must all be written in English and be received by no later than

Thursday 15th November 2007.

The prize

Five winners will be chosen from the island of Ireland from the following entry categories:

" *Essay*

" *Poem/song*

" *Drawing/painting/photograph*

" *Video message*

Students will be flown to Paris to take part in the Global Launch Event for the International Year of Planet Earth. Travel between the island of Ireland to Paris will take place Monday 11th February and Thursday 14th February. Pre arranged accommodation, meals and travel in Paris will be provided by the competition organisers, the International Year of Planet Earth Corporation.

Further details of the competition and prizes can be found at

<http://www.esfs.org/studentcontest.html>

<http://www.planetearth.ie/unescocontest/UNESCO%20Student%20Contest%20Official%20Application%20Form.doc>