

**Proposal for a YES Africa  
Symposium  
in conjunction with  
the 23<sup>rd</sup> Colloquium for African  
Geology**

**8-14 January 2011**

First Circular  
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## **1. Introduction**

The YES Network is an international association of early career earth scientists (primarily under the age of 35 years) from geoscience organizations and companies around the world. The YES Network was formed as a result of the International Year of Planet Earth in 2007. In 2009, the YES Network, in collaboration with the IYPE and under the patronage of UNESCO, organized its first international conference which focused on climate, environmental and geological challenges facing today's society, as well as career and academic pathway challenges faced by young geoscientists. The YES Network aims to establish an interdisciplinary global network of individuals committed to solving these challenges, and furthering the IYPE motto of "Earth Sciences for Society".

### **1.1 *First World Young Earth-Scientists Congress***

The First World Young Earth-Scientists (YES) Congress was held at the China University of Geosciences, Beijing. The conference, under the patronage of UNESCO, was also part of the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE) outreach programme to young scientists. The great support of many national and international organizations was reflected during the opening ceremony that was officiated by the Minister from the Ministry of Land and Resources of the People's Republic of China.

The YES Congress gathered more than 350 young earth-scientists from 37 countries around the globe and more than 50 virtual participants. YES members are those who are doing research pertaining to environmental and/or geoscience-related issues, and are either in school or in the beginning of their careers. Although many YES members are under the age of 35 years old, there are some who are slightly older. There were also a number of senior experts from different countries who were invited to make presentations at the Opening Ceremony and also at the roundtable symposia.

### **1.2 *Why YES African Symposium?***

For the YES Congress 2009 meeting that was held in China from the 24<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October, there were 578 young scientists from 37 countries who wrote and submitted abstracts. Over 300 people

attended the meeting, and 57 individuals, including 16 speakers, participated via a virtual webinar interface in the roundtable symposia. Of the 578 young scientists who submitted abstracts, 76 were from young African scientists. Due to limited funding, only 16 Africans were able to attend the YES Congress 2009, As of March 17, 2010 there were 125 African YES Network members, and the number continues to grow on a daily basis. An African-based YES event would allow the YES Network to enable a larger number of young African geoscientists to attend a scientific meeting, discuss their research, and network with other scientists about scientific and professional development challenges issues such as geo-hazards, natural resources, climate change, gender parity in the geoscience profession, and education. These issues affect the lives of young African geologists every day and will also affect their future.

For various reasons, Earth Science studies in Africa have been one of the career paths that has not been promoted or highly preferred by many students. Therefore, this event will enable geoscience students to outline what is it that is appealing about this career and also what should be done to make sure that Earth Science Studies in Africa are improving.

By hosting this event in Africa, more young and early-career geoscientists will be able to interact with – and join - the YES Network. The meeting will also help to motivate them to be actively involved in the activities that the YES Network is currently planning (see the YES Network site ([www.networkyes.org](http://www.networkyes.org)) for more information). The meeting will also improve African delegates opportunities to participate in the next YES Congress (held in Brisbane, Australia in 2012 together with the 34<sup>th</sup> IGC) by expanding the YES Network membership in Africa and strengthening the ties between the YES Network National Chapters and local organizations.

Therefore we propose that a YES Africa Symposium be held conjointly with the 23<sup>rd</sup> Colloquium of African Geology (CAG) in Johannesburg, from 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

## **2 Proposed YES Oral and Poster Presentations Topics**

### **2.1 *Earth's Resources and Sustainable Development of Africa***

- a. Mineral Resources: PG2-Cr-V, gemstones, industrial minerals, building materials and small scale mining
- b. Energy Resources: Geothermal, Petroleum, Hydropower, Coal, Uranium resources

- c. Geohydrology: Groundwater resources, water chemistry etc

## **2.2 Post Gondwana Geodynamics of Africa**

- a. East African Rift: Tectonics, Evolution, Volcanism and Geo-physics
- b. Cenozoic alkaline provinces of western and Southern Africa
- c. Kimberlite Magmatism in Africa
- d. Kalahari Epeirogeny, Sedimentary Basins and Geomorphic evolution
- e. Neotectonics: Intraplate Seismicity Quaternary active faults, stress fields

## **2.3 Environmental Geology and Geohazards**

- a. Natural Hazards Vs Man Made Hazards
- b. Geologic implications for public policy
- c. Applied Geology to environment

## **3 Proposed Roundtable Symposia Topics**

### **3.1 Natural Hazards in Africa: Climate change, Earth quakes, Landslides, hydrological hazards etc.**

*Roundtable Organizers:* **Ndivhuwo Cecilia Mukosi**, Geologist, Council For Geoscience- Limpopo Unit, South Africa

E-mail: [ncmukosi@gmail.com](mailto:ncmukosi@gmail.com)

*Roundtable Moderators:* **1. Yayeh Daselegny**, Assistant Lecturer (M.Sc. Candidate), University of Ethiopia, E-mail: [desalegny@geol.aau.edu.et](mailto:desalegny@geol.aau.edu.et)

#### **2. Kabore Awudu Moro**

National Service Person, Timber Industry Development Division, Ghana

E-mail: [oldmorrisaz@yahoo.com](mailto:oldmorrisaz@yahoo.com)

### **Description:**

This roundtable session will review current natural hazards that are occurring in the African continent, for example earthquakes (e.g. active East African rift), landslides, floods and drought etc.

The roundtable discussion will focus on the different approaches of identifying natural hazards, risk assessment, risk mitigation and the role of the earth scientists and government/ policy makers with regard to natural hazards. What is the role of the government with regard to natural hazards, and how can young earth scientist approach government/ policy makers with regard to these natural hazards?

**Working Group Discussion Topics:**

1. Do you think scientists have done enough work to warn the public about these events in the past, and/or do you think most of the research that has been done about these natural events have been kept at the library and the public has no idea of what might happen in the future? What steps are required to make sure the public is aware of what the earth scientist are predicting? Do you agree that the public should be aware of these possible natural hazards? If so, how do scientists approach and advise the public? Should we have outreach activities that educate the public or should government declare a policy that requires the earth scientist to educate the public?

2. What is the role of the government with regard to natural hazards, and how can young earth scientist approach government/ policy-makers with regard to these natural hazards? Do the government/ policy-makers have strategies in place that enable them to consider how to deal with events that might take place in more than 50 years? Or is their focus only on events that might occur during their time in office? How do earth scientists approach government with these issues?

**Potential Speakers to invite under the following Topics:**

***Geophysicst/ geologist:*** The impact of the East African rift to the surrounding countries (past and future possibilities)

Taufeeq Dhansy, Geologist. Council for Geosciences, South Africa.

Email: [taufeeq.dhansay@gmail.com](mailto:taufeeq.dhansay@gmail.com)

***Climatologist:*** The relationship between climate change and natural hazards in Africa

1. **Dr Tiba Kabanda**

2. **Rodney Lunduka (Lecturer)**

University of Malawi

[lunduka@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lunduka@yahoo.co.uk)

**Policy maker/ political analyst:** what are governments view regarding natural hazards? And does government listen to the advice of scientists regarding these hazards? If not, in what way can scientists approach governments?

### **3.2 *Creating Local and Regional Professional Development Resources for Young and Early-Career Geoscientists***

Round Table Organizers:

Round Table Moderators: 1.

2.

This roundtable session explores the current programs and initiatives that provide professional development resources for young and early-career geoscientists within Africa. This session will determine how these resources can be increased in order to make them available to a greater number of young and early-career geoscientists, both on a regional and local level. Issues to be explored in this session include: Job availability, preparedness of geoscience graduates, availability local and regional infrastructure to support professional development resources (schools, programs, internet accessibility), and retention of geoscience graduates. Strategies for how the YES Network and YES Network National Chapters can develop and disseminate these professional development resources will also be proposed.

**Working Group Discussion Topics:**

1. Identify what programs and resources exist for young and early-career geoscientists at a local and regional level. What resources are needed, yet are missing from the current available programs and resources?
2. Develop strategies for the creation of new professional development resources and for the dissemination of existing professional development resources.
3. How does Africa build and retain a cadre of world-class geoscientists in the rising generation?
4. Identify steps that the YES Network and YES Network National Chapters in Africa can take to develop new resources, and disseminate information about existing professional development resources.

**Potential Speakers to Invite:**

Ms. Sarah Gaines

Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences, UNESCO

**4 Analysis of Abstracts**

All the abstracts will be analyzed by the scientific committee of YES Africa symposium, and successful candidates will be notified by the YES Africa Congress IOC. Early career earth scientists with the best abstracts will be sponsored to attend the event depending on the available funds.

## 5 Program of the Event

Time	Activity
8:00 – 8:30	Opening Remarks and Introduction
8:30 – 10:00	Oral Presentations
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee Break
10:30 – 13:30	Round Table Topic 1
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch Break
14:30 – 16:30	Round Table Topic 2
16:30 – 17:00	Summary of the Round tables and Way forward of YES Network Africa

## 6 Important Dates (according to CAG)

30/06/2010 Early registration and submission of abstracts

30/09/2010 Late registration and submission of abstracts

## 7 Registration Fee

To be discussed with CAG

## 8 YES Network National Chapters National Representatives:

Botswana	<p><b>Maduo Tshimologo Mabengano</b>          B.Sc. Student          Geology and Environmental Science          University of Botswana          E-mail: mdmabengano@yahoo.com</p>
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Ethiopia	<p><b>Yayeh Desalegn</b>          Assistant Lecturer (M.Sc. Candidate)          Sedimentology and Stratigraphy          Department of Earth Sciences          Faculty of Science          Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia          E-mail: desalegny@geol.aau.edu.et</p>
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