



UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs

Supporters of the
International Heliophysical Year (2005-2009)
International Space Weather Initiative (2010-2012)

10 January 2010

Dear Colleagues,

The United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS), in its fifty-second session in Vienna from 3 to 12 June 2009, noted the importance of continuing to build upon the successes of the International Heliophysical Year 2007 (IHY 2007), in particular by deepening the understanding of the function of the Sun and its effects on the Earth's magnetosphere, environment and climate, and noted with satisfaction the agreement reached by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-sixth session to consider, beginning at its forty-seventh session in 2010, a new agenda item entitled "International Space Weather Initiative (ISWI)" under a three-year work plan (2010, 2011, 2012) with specific focus on the effects of space weather on the Earth. ISWI will utilize the ground-based world-wide IHY instrument arrays under deployment since 2005.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you, on behalf of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), for the outstanding success of IHY in your capacity as instrument providers and instrument hosts and express our hopes that you will support ISWI in the future.

We wish you and your colleagues a Happy and Peaceful New Year 2010.

International ISWI workshops have been tentatively scheduled to be hosted by Egypt (2010) for Western Asia, Nigeria (2011) for Africa, and Ecuador (2012) for Latin America and the Caribbean. The 2009 UN/ESA/NASA/JAXA Workshop on Basic Space Science and the International Heliophysical Year 2007, held in the Republic of Korea in 2009, started implementing ISWI as put forth by UNCOUOS. We are grateful to colleagues in Bulgaria for maintaining the ISWI Website and to colleagues in Japan for publishing the ISWI Newsletter. We convey thanks to all the host countries of IHY/ISWI workshops and the principal co-sponsors of such UN workshops: ESA, NASA, and JAXA, and co-organizers as COSPAR and IAU.

Thank you for your cooperation and looking forward to meeting with you the challenges of the coming years.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hans J. Haubold".

Hans J. Haubold