

Dear Colleague,

The World Year of Physics 2005 — WYP2005

As you know, the organisation and success of the World Year of Physics 2005 will rely on the commitment and hard work of many individuals worldwide. We learned that the UNESCO Director General is strongly supporting a resolution by the United Nations to declare the WYP2005 as the International Year of Physics. Such a resolution would provide a resounding encouragement to physics. On the other hand, we know that 2005 should be declared the International Year of Microcredit and possibly the International Year of Sport. What the United Nations will vote in a time, when the concept of International Years is being criticised for poor benefit-to-cost ratio, remains to be seen.

Nevertheless, whatever happens to these resolutions, the General Assembly of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) has unanimously approved the proposition for 2005 as a World Year of Physics. And it is evident that by a strong grass-root effort, one can counter the widespread disinterest in physics, by showing its value for our economical and cultural development.

We therefore urge each National Physical Society and other organisation related to the development of physics to act diligently to make WYP2005 a universal success. We know that many countries have already started serious planning.

Many different types of events will be programmed in order to promote physics to a broad audience of young students and of the population in general. In order to help the different organisers to exchange and gather new ideas, EPS has launched a web site that should centralise any valuable information and ongoing progress from all countries. The web site has the address

<http://www.wyp2005.org/>

and can also be accessed via the regular EPS web site, <http://www.eps.org/>

We would be grateful if you could send your information and comments about WYP2005 in your country directly to the EPS Webmaster, ouarab@uha.fr. May we also ask you to pass this message to any of your colleagues who are involved in promoting WYP2005.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Sincerely yours,

Martin C.E. Huber
EPS President

Christophe Rossel
EPS Executive Secretary

Martial Ducloy
Chair, EPS WYP2005