

[PROCLAMATION NO. 1482, April 10, 2008]

**DECLARING THE YEAR 2008 AS "YEAR OF PLANET EARTH" AND
THE MONTH OF APRIL EVERY YEAR THEREAFTER AS "THE
MONTH OF PLANET EARTH" IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND
PROVIDING FOR THE CONDUCT OF ACTIVITIES FOR ITS
CELEBRATION**

WHEREAS, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed the year 2008 as the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE) on December 22, 2005 and has provided the ultimate goal to demonstrate the great potential of the Earth Sciences in building a safer, healthier, and wealthier society by promoting the sustainable development of earth materials;

WHEREAS, the UNGA further encouraged all member nations to prepare activities to increase awareness on the importance of Earth Sciences for the promotion and protection of the welfare of society and the entire humanity;

WHEREAS, the IYPE Project was jointly initiated by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);

WHEREAS, Section II, Article 16 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that "the State shall protect and advance the right of the Filipino people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

WHEREAS, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is mandated to conserve, manage, protect and develop the country's environment and natural resources within the context of sustainable development;

WHEREAS, The Philippines supports global consensus on the need to protect and save our planet from environmental degradation and ensure a sustainable future for all people;

WHEREAS, the wide-ranging societal importance of the geosciences for life and prosperity within the educational system and on the part of policy decision makers is recognized, specifically on the application of the potential of earth sciences in reducing the risks caused by natural and human-induced hazards, the sustainable use of groundwater and newly-discovered natural resources, on building structures for safer megacities, on determining the non-human factor in climatic change and the understanding of the evolution of life and origin of diversity;

WHEREAS, the Philippines acknowledges the essential need for the promotion of greater public awareness and understanding of the critical importance of what earth sciences could offer towards achieving a better quality of life;