

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

Science serves its readers as a forum for the presentation and discussion of important issues related to the advancement of science, including the presentation of minority or conflicting points of view, rather than by publishing only material on which a consensus has been reached. Accordingly, all articles published in *Science*—including editorials, news and comment, and book reviews—are signed and reflect the individual views of the authors and not official points of view adopted by the AAAS or the institutions with which the authors are affiliated.

Editorial Board

1973

H. S. GUTOWSKY	GARDNER LINDZEY
ARTHUR D. HASLER	RAYMOND H. THOMPSON
RUDOLF KOMPFFNER	EDWARD O. WILSON
DANIEL E. KOSHLAND, JR.	

1974

ALFRED BROWN	FRANK W. PUTNAM
JAMES F. CROW	MAXINE SINGER
SEYMOUR S. KETY	GORDON WOLMAN
FRANK PRESS	

Editorial Staff

Editor

PHILIP H. ABELSON

<i>Publisher</i>	<i>Business Manager</i>
WILLIAM BEVAN	HANS NUSSBAUM

Managing Editor: ROBERT V. ORMES

Assistant Editors: ELLEN E. MURPHY, JOHN E. RINGLE

Assistant to the Editor: NANCY TEIMOURIAN

News and Comment: JOHN WALSH, LUTHER J. CARTER, DEBORAH SHAPLEY, ROBERT GILLETTE, NICHOLAS WADE, CONSTANCE HOLDEN, BARBARA J. CULLITON, SCHERRAINE MACK

Research News: ALLEN L. HAMMOND, WILLIAM D. METZ, THOMAS H. MAUGH II, JEAN L. MARX, ARTHUR L. ROBINSON

Book Reviews: SYLVIA EBERHART, KATHERINE LIVINGSTON, ANN SELTZ-PETRASH

Cover Editor: GRAYCE FINGER

Editorial Assistants: MARGARET ALLEN, ISABELLA BOULDIN, BLAIR BURNS, ELEANORE BUTZ, MARY DORFMAN, JUDITH GIVELBER, CORRINE HARRIS, NANCY HARTNAGEL, OLIVER HEATWOLE, CHRISTINE KARLIK, GINA BARI KOLATA, MARGARET LLOYD, JEAN ROCKWOOD, PATRICIA ROWE, LEAH RYAN, JOHN SCHAUER, LOIS SCHMITT, MICHAEL SCHWARTZ, RICHARD SEMIKLOSE, KENNETH SMITH, YA LI SWIGART

Guide to Scientific Instruments: RICHARD SOMMER

Membership Recruitment: GWENDOLYN HUDDLE;
Subscription Records and Member Records: ANN RAGLAND

Advertising Staff

<i>Director</i>	<i>Production Manager</i>
EARL J. SCHERAGO	PATTY WELLS

Advertising Sales Manager: RICHARD L. CHARLES

Sales: NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036: Herbert L. Burkland, 11 W. 42 St. (212-PE-6-1858); SCOTCH PLAINS, N.J. 07076: C. Richard Callis, 12 Unami Lane (201-889-4873); CHICAGO, ILL. 60611: John P. Cahill, Room 2107, 919 N. Michigan Ave. (312-DE-7-4973); BEVERLY HILLS, CALIF. 90211: Winn Nance, 111 N. La Cienega Blvd. (213-657-2772)

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE: 1515 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20005. Phones: (Area code 202) Central Office: 467-4350; Book Reviews: 467-4367; Business Office: 467-4411; Circulation: 467-4417; Guide to Scientific Instruments: 467-4480; News and Comment: 467-4430; Reprints and Permissions: 467-4483; Research News: 467-4321; Reviewing: 467-4440. Cable: Advancesci, Washington. Copies of "Instructions for Contributors" can be obtained from the editorial office. See also page xv, *Science*, 28 September 1973. ADVERTISING CORRESPONDENCE: Room 1740, 11 W. 42 St., New York, N.Y. 10036. Phone: 212-PE-6-1858.

A New International Program

The term "scientific community" is often used in a context that implies effective organization, with unity of purpose and action. In general, the implication is far from fact. One discipline that is unusually cohesive is geophysics. This is true on a national scale; performance is particularly exemplary on the international level. To a major extent this behavior arises out of the needs of the discipline. The entire earth is a laboratory of geophysics, and projects often involve cooperation of scientists from many nations.

The largest scientific cooperative venture ever conducted, International Geophysical Year (IGY), involved 60,000 participants from 67 countries. Attracted by the success of IGY, other disciplines have attempted special international programs, but in general they have not come to much. Usually preparation was inadequate.

Geophysicists, together with geologists, are now in the process of launching a major new international project, and their procedures could well be studied by those having similar ambitions. The new venture, called the Geodynamics Project, is designed to exploit the many opportunities for new insights resulting from recent advances in earth science. It is now widely accepted that the crust of the earth consists of a limited number of tectonic plates (some of them continents) and that these are in motion. Their collisions give rise to earthquakes, volcanism, mountain-building, and other geological, geochemical, and geophysical phenomena.

Much of the original impetus for the program was supplied in 1968 by the Geophysics Research Board of the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council. In the intervening years, thoroughgoing planning has been done for the major, active phase of the project, scheduled for 1974 through 1979. Chairman of both the U.S. Geodynamics Committee and the International Geodynamics Project is Charles Drake of Dartmouth. He has obtained the backing of seven of the major earth science societies and has enlisted the cooperation of industry, government, and academia. For example, each of the major universities was asked to nominate a correspondent who would serve as a contact between the project and his university. About 100 institutions named such a representative. In delineating activities for the program and in establishing priorities, the U.S. national committee set up 14 ad hoc working groups, which included about 140 leading, active scientists. These groups identified opportunities and priorities in their spheres of interest and prepared backup material. Subsequently, the total package was examined and reworked extensively in a 3-day session involving about 50 experts. The material was polished further and has now been published.* The report outlines a comprehensive field program ranging from the mid-Atlantic Ridge to the western Aleutians, and from the Arctic to Antarctica. It lists opportunities, objectives, and priorities for field and laboratory studies. Participants will include micro-paleontologists, geochemists, geomagneticians, seismologists, and vertebrate paleontologists.

The program has stirred wide interest and enthusiasm among earth scientists. Especially notable have been four meetings in Latin America, including that in Mexico City, arranged in part by the members of the Geodynamics Committee. Stimulated by the program, the hemisphere's geophysicists have been working together as never before.

The Geodynamics Committee is now seeking official government blessing for the project and some modest additional financial support for geodynamics research. The committee and its associates have outlined an excellent program. Their efforts fully merit government recognition and support.—PHILIP H. ABELSON

* U.S. Program for the Geodynamics Project (National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C., 1973).