

# GEOETHICS NEWS

April 2009



Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the AGID Working Group for Geoethics and as Convenors of the international Section GEOETHICS at the Mining Příbram Symposium we send you our best wishes of

**HAPPY EASTER**

We are looking forward to get further news from you and to continue in contacts with you. Any your help in promoting the ideas of GEOETHICS will be highly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

**Vaclav Nemec**, AGID vice-president, and **Lidmila Nemcova**

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# THE MINING PRIBRAM SYMPOSIUM THE INTERNATIONAL SECTION **GEOETHICS**

**October 12-16, 2009 - Příbram, Czech Republic**

Příbram is a city 60 km SW from Prague with a long mining tradition starting in the 13-th century.

Convenors: Vaclav Nemec, Lidmila Nemcova

**Association of Geoscientists for International Development (AGID) - Working Group for Geoethics** will organise its meeting jointly with this international section.

**A more detailed program with all needed information (incl. registration form and fee payment conditions) will be issued in early June.**

Already fifteen abstracts from authors of 8 European and Asiatic countries received, further promised and expected.

Be so kind to send your Preliminary Registration Form (use the last page 9) and abstracts as soon as possible.

## **Contacts:**

(for THE MINING PRIBRAM SYMPOSIUM as well as for the GEOETHICS NEWS and for the AGID Working Group on GEOETHICS):

**by the e-mail (preferably) to**

[lidmila.nemcova@quick.cz](mailto:lidmila.nemcova@quick.cz) (conveners) and [marcinikova@diamo.cz](mailto:marcinikova@diamo.cz) (secretary)

**or by the mail to**

Dr. Vaclav Nemec

or/and

The Mining Příbram Symposium

K rybníckum 17

P.O. Box 41

100 00 Praha 10 - Stránská

261 92 Příbram

Czech Republic

Czech Republic

**or by the fax to**

**(++420) 318644148** (attention, changed!) - THE MINING PRIBRAM SYMPOSIUM

**Many thanks for informing your colleagues who may be interested.**

# OTHER EVENTS IN PREPARATION



IX МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ КОНФЕРЕНЦИЯ 9-th International Conference  
"НОВЫЕ ИДЕИ В НАУКАХ О ЗЕМЛЕ" New Ideas in the Earth Sciences

**April 14 – 17, 2009 - Moscow - Russia**

Russian State Geological University of S. Ordzhonikidze (RGGRU)

117997 Москва, ул. Миклухо-Маклая д.23

Information: [www.msgpa.edu.ru](http://www.msgpa.edu.ru) (in the Russian language);  
the programme at: [http://www.msgpa.edu.ru/RU/conference/newinsae/Programma\\_2009.pdf](http://www.msgpa.edu.ru/RU/conference/newinsae/Programma_2009.pdf)

## **Traditional section S-XXX on GEOETHICS – APRIL 15, 2009**

**S – XXX СЕКЦИЯ ГЕОЭТИКИ : 15 апреля — среда; начало заседания 10<sup>00</sup>, ауд. 368**

Председатель — член-корр. Международной Академии Минеральных ресурсов **Л. П. Рыжова**  
Секретарь — с. н. с. **М. Б. Кузьмин**

**Устные доклады** (for technical and practical reasons the following list of papers re-printed from the above given web resources of the organizers only in the original language):

1. **S. Peppoloni:** *Reflection cues on the cultural and social responsibility of the geologist in the third millennium.*
2. **V. Nemes\***: *Predicting natural hazards and climate changes— geoethical issues and social impact.*
3. **Н. В. Анацкая:** *Геоэтика: образование и воспитание.*
4. **Ф. Б. Бакшт, В. М. Передерин:** *Этика первооткрывательства в России.*
5. **Н. К. Никитина:** *Этические составляющие управленческих решений в условиях всеобщего экономического кризиса.*
6. **Л. П. Рыжова:** *Геоэтические подходы в системе эффективного освоения полезных ископаемых.*
7. **А. Г. Красавин, М. Б. Кузьмин:** *Геоэтика в эффективности освоения минерально-сырьевого потенциала рудных месторождений.*
8. **М. Безрукова, Н. Дудкина, Г. Шибнева, М. Елисеева, О. Красовская:** *К вопросу конкурентоспособности рудно-сырьевой базы России и стран СНГ.*
9. **О. Караваева, И. Колосова, И. Кожевников, А. Шакирова:** *Корректность графического анализа взаимосвязи цены, добычи, содержания рудных месторождений.*
10. **Е. Зубкова, О. Клименко, Я. Малиновская, Н. Шкоденко, А. Эрднигарева:** *Этические проблемы становления государственной статистики в России.*
11. **С. Будушкаева, А. Дегтярева, И. Лобов:** *Влияние кризиса на сокращение инвестиционных программ металлургических предприятий*
12. **С. А. Кузнецов:** *Анализ финансовой деятельности предприятия на примере ЕСО «АЛРОСА».*
13. **А. А. Ануфриев:** *Определение стартового платежа при проведении аукционов на право пользования недрами.*
14. **М. Г. Демчишин, А. Н. Анацкий:** *Проявление склоновых гравитационных процессов при экстремальных синоптических ситуациях в Карпатском регионе Украины.*
15. **В. Н. Юсим, И. В. Денисов, М. В. Афанасьева:** *Геоэтика строительного комплекса фирм в условиях кризиса.*
16. **М. Б. Кузьмин, А. Г. Красавин, Л. П. Рыжова:** *Устойчивое развитие горно-геологических производств и тренд технологий, как основа геоэтики минерально-сырьевых ресурсов.*
17. **Н. Тарасов:** *К вопросу применения индексного анализа при решении экономических задач.*
18. **В. И. Гур:** *Морально-ценностные ориентации геоэтики.*
19. **Н. К. Гусак:** *Геоэтика об имидже управленца.*

\*Unfortunately the author will not be present



**September 9 – 11, 2009 – Rimini:  
GEOITALIA 2009  
VII-th Italian Forum of Earth Sciences**

[www.geoitalia.org](http://www.geoitalia.org)

[> Home Page](#) [> Geoitalia 2009 \(ENG\)](#) [> Scientific program](#) [> Symposia](#) [> U: Ethics, culture and promotion of Geoscience through public outreach and communication](#)

**Symposium U 1 - GEOETHICS:  
Reflections on the cultural and social responsibility  
of the geologist in the third millennium**

**Convenors:** Di Capua G.; Peppoloni S.; Piacente S.

[giuseppe.dicapua@ingv.it](mailto:giuseppe.dicapua@ingv.it) ; [silvia.peppoloni@ingv.it](mailto:silvia.peppoloni@ingv.it) ; [sandra.piacente@unimore.it](mailto:sandra.piacente@unimore.it)

Geoethics aims to discuss problems involved in the relations between the mankind and the geological environment. Its goals include encouraging critical analyses of the use of natural resources, stressing the immense value of the Geosphere and the need for protecting it, providing correct information about natural risks, etc. Taking into account the outcomes of the Session IEE-07 of the 33rd IGC held in Oslo in 2008, this proposal aims to bring to Italy the debate on the issues of the scientific responsibility of the geologist, in terms of the new cultural and social role that the researches in Earth Sciences have acquired in recent years.

**Deadline for abstracts (only in American English): May 16, 2009.**

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**International Conference on**  
**GEOSCIENCE FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT (GeoDev)**  
**Dhaka, Bangladesh - October 26-31, 2009**

Organized jointly by the Association of Geoscientists for International Development (**AGID**), Bangladesh Geological Society (**BGS**), Geological Survey of Bangladesh (**GSB**), International Geoscience Education Organization (**IGEO**).

Download the first Circular at:

[http://www.gsa.org.au/pdffdocuments/events/GDEV%202009\\_First%20Announcement.pdf](http://www.gsa.org.au/pdffdocuments/events/GDEV%202009_First%20Announcement.pdf)

## **OBJECTIVES**

Human civilization and enhancement of living standards are the result of development activities. Industrialization, urbanization, exploration & exploitation of natural resources and construction of roads, highways, dams and bridges are the major development activities going on worldwide. Unfortunately, such development activities are also causing global warming, air and water pollution, health hazards, and broadly speaking, degrading the natural environments necessary for the survival and welfare of mankind. We want development - want to improve the standard of our living. And at the same time, we also want to preserve the nature because we have an unquenched liking for the shape, beauty and charms of the world. This International Conference is intended for exchanging ideas, concepts and activities in geosciences, the science of the Earth. And also for recommending ways and initiatives for sustainable global development, which is also the prime goal of the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE).

## **THEMES**

### **Development Activities**

- \* Geoscience for development activities:
  - Development of cities & industries and construction of highways, dams & bridges.
- \* Impact of development activities on the natural environment.
- \* Natural hazards assessment and infrastructure development.
- \* Climate change, ecology and bio-diversity

### **Natural Resources**

- \* Exploration, exploitation and management of natural resources.
- \* Combating energy crises and researching alternative sources.
- \* Water resources development, management & quality assurance.
- \* Role of NGO's in natural resource management and environmental protection.

### **Geoscience Education**

- \* Geoscience education and awareness for mankind.
- \* Woman in geo-education and geo-development.
- \* New approaches in geoscience education & research.

\* \* \*

## OTHER NEWS

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE **ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) FOR A GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

*How can ICT durably contribute to the wellbeing of all citizens around the world?*

**January 22-23, 2009 - European Commission – Brussels**

L. Nemcova and V. Nemec as participants have received the following message from the organisers:

*Dear all,*

*This short email is to warmly thank you again for having participated in the "ICT for a global sustainable future" conference organised last week in Brussels.*

*It is also to inform you that we have started updating the <http://www.paradiso-fp7.eu> web site and plan that all presentations will be uploaded before the end of the week: you will receive another email as soon as it is done.*

*Best regards.*

*The PARADISO conference team*

Mail: [info@paradiso-fp7.eu](mailto:info@paradiso-fp7.eu) URL: <http://www.paradiso-fp7.eu/>

The following document has been published in the Proceedings volume about

### **GEOETHICS**

**Vaclav Nemec, Lidmila Nemcova**

Association of Geoscientists for International Development  
Mining Příbram Symposium - Czech Republic

Major aspects of Earth Sciences particularly relevant for society today have been highlighted during the 33rd International Geological Congress (Oslo, August 2008). Particular emphasis was given to topics identified also for the International Year of the Planet Earth. The king of Norway Harald V in his speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Congress expressed the absolute priority for the mankind: Knowledge of earth science is increasingly needed in the study of climate change and to protect us from natural hazards.

Our concern today is with the warming climate, rapid population growth and a clear man-made impact on the local and regional environment. But how much is the increase in temperature really caused by the anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub>? How reliable are climate predictions? In the longer perspective we may see changes similar to the large changes in the climate of the Earth that have evolved over time scales of tenth- to hundred thousand years. A superb archive of past climates documents great climate variability throughout Earth's history. Also astronomical theory of climate change offers explanations for changes in the earth's orbit around the sun. Today's changes should be



seen in the context of these billions of years of natural changes. We need more knowledge before drastic measures are taken as these might cause more harm than help.

## **Needs of geoethics**

All mentioned priority geo-themes should be examined also from such points of view as responsibility, risk, sustainability - in one appropriate expression: geoethics (from the Greek géo=Earth and ethos=morality). Geoethics is a set of moral standards which are to be applied when utilizing the geosphere. It was proposed as an independent scientific field in 1992 by the authors during an international meeting at Příbram (Czech Republic). It has been accepted by both earth and social sciences because the necessity of an appropriate ethical attitude to the whole geosphere and of a critical analysis of geoethical dilemmas with finding ways how to solve them.

Geoethics cover a large spectrum of both theoretically oriented ideas and practical case studies as a complex and reasonable use of resources and a deep research and monitoring of processes with the aim to prevent critical ecological situations. An interdisciplinary approach is to be applied both in actual cases and in strategic trajectories: geoethical solutions presume also an economic and social analysis before recommending and influencing final political decisions. The basic principles of the common good and sustainable development are to be taken into consideration.

Social impact (in liaison with climatic changes and natural hazards) consists in minimising risk (precautionary principle: attention to vulnerable places, monitoring and warning systems) and in improving landscape (problems: suburbanisation, transport and infrastructure, towns vs. countryside, land use, water, forests, ecosystems, aesthetical aspects, noise vs. silence); also educational aspects (understanding nature, living style in conformity with the nature) need to be promoted and cultivated.

A necessity appears to look after spiritual sources of geoethics which could be found also in various religious cultures. Responsible decisions at any level (from a personal to the global one) should be based on priorities of spiritual and moral values and principles common to all mankind incl. future generations. Believers are convinced that the God has given the Earth with its own dynamic development and resources to the whole human kind demanding to obey basic moral and natural laws without excluding or preferring anybody. The non-believers recognise at least the existence of natural laws governing the development of our planet. Many geological processes still remain to be deciphered (e. g. hierarchical periodicities in space and in time). Without their knowledge and appropriate measures one day our fragile planet may appear as a serious danger to mankind. (How to resist to floods appearing once in  $10^4$  or  $10^7$  years, sinking sea shores or orogenic movements?). The objective to prevent many potential dangers that will appear in the future has to mobilise and support various needed activities as further fundamental research (which cannot be governed by majority rules) as well as improved monitoring and protection systems.

Any effort at any level (geo-scientists, ICT specialists, politicians, statesmen and other stakeholders) should respect principles of geoethics and their responsibility for the destiny of our planet and of its inhabitants.

## **Conclusions for Information and Communication Technologies**

Astronomy is able to reconstruct as well as to predict trajectories of celestial bodies for incredibly long periods. Analogous efforts of Earth sciences might follow such an example to some limited extent; deciphered natural laws hopefully will increase predictability of climate changes and natural disasters. In such a way ICT based monitoring and warning systems - enriched in their reliability - may help to realise respective preventive and protective measures well in advance. Cross generation solidarity will increase safety and quality of human life in a complete conformity with the laws of the Nature. Some sort of a geoethical audit may be introduced and presented by a new index classifying the achieved level of prevention and protective measures facing natural disasters at any (local-national-regional-global) scale.

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**Professor Paul Reitan (USA)** - convenor of the symposium IEE-08 (Geoethics II – Earth sciences and the ethics of sustainable world cultures) at the 33<sup>rd</sup> International Geological Congress, Oslo, 2008 - **informs:**

*In mid-February I organized a symposium at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. My co-organizer was Prof. Mary Evelyn Tucker. You may know of her work in the field of religion and ecology along with her husband, Prof. John Grim. The title of the symposium was "Toward the Science and Ethics of a Culture of Sustainability". Speakers were myself, Profs. Tucker and Grim, the environmental philosopher Holmes Rolston, and the biologist Prof. Ursula Goodenough.*

*There is quite a bit of activity by the Forum on Religion and Ecology and other religious groups who now see the environment as being within their sphere of interest. So in this sense there is activity related to ethics and the Earth. But Geoethics or scientists or ethicists working on how the Earth is treated by humans -- not much that I am aware of. There will be a conference at the end of April at Villanova University called the "International Sustainability Conference". I am supposed to be on the program with a paper titled "A Culture of Sustainability - Can Science and Ecosophy Help?"*

\* \* \*

**Final Remarks:** All useful information, suggestions, comments etc. from you and your colleagues will be highly appreciated and – if necessary – incorporated into the next issues of GEOETHICS NEWS.

*This version of GEOETHICS NEWS has been issued only for the e-mail distribution (with a simplified Czech alphabet).*



Be so kind to send the following preliminary registration form by the e-mail to  
[lidmila.nemcova@quick.cz](mailto:lidmila.nemcova@quick.cz) ; [marcinikova@diamo.cz](mailto:marcinikova@diamo.cz)  
or by the mail or fax to the above given addresses (see PAGE 2).

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**THE MINING PRIBRAM SYMPOSIUM 2009**  
**THE INTERNATIONAL SECTION ON GEOETHICS**  
**PRELIMINARY REGISTRATION FORM**

**Personal data:**

Name:

Address:

E-mail:

Fax No.(incl. country and city codes):

Phone No.(incl. country and city codes):

The accompanying family members:

**Probability of participation** (x – inappropriate indications to be deleted):

☐ high

☐ medium

☐ low

☐ I shall not attend but I am interested to get further GEOETHICS NEWS

**Abstract of suggested paper** (x – inappropriate indications to be deleted):

☐ enclosed

☐ will be sent before with the following preliminary title of the paper:

.....

☐ no intention to present a paper

**Other special wishes, remarks, suggestions:**