

# GEOETHICS NEWS

June 2010

**We are just continuing to live in a dark shadow of many recent heavy damages to people all over the Earth. All recent catastrophes result in an increasing necessity to improve any forecasting of natural disasters and in**

*Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill Disaster*



**NEW  
CHALLENGES  
FOR  
GEOETHICS!**  
Think about  
them,

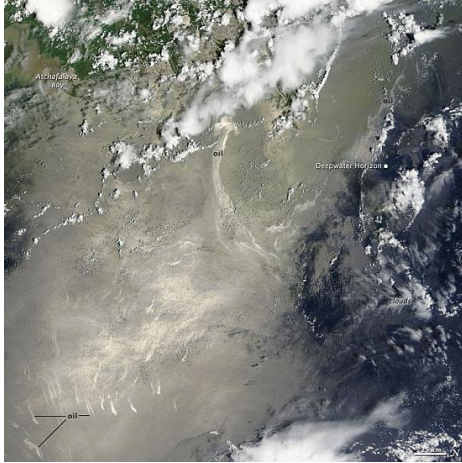
**help to develop new ideas for geoethics!**

## **Following information:**

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GOOD NEWS: ALL GEOETHICS NEWS SINCE 2007 AVAILABLE !
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**NO COMMENTS ....**

## Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill Disaster



A computer generated image created by the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research shows that oil leaking from the damaged well could end up on the East coast of America and even get carried on currents across the Atlantic Ocean

Picture:AP

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/earthpicturegalleries/7803465/>

**GEOETHICS = RESPONSIBILITY OF**  
**EARTH SCIENTISTS**  
**PUBLIC AUTHORITIES**  
**EVERY HUMAN BEING ON EARTH**

## Icelandic volcano



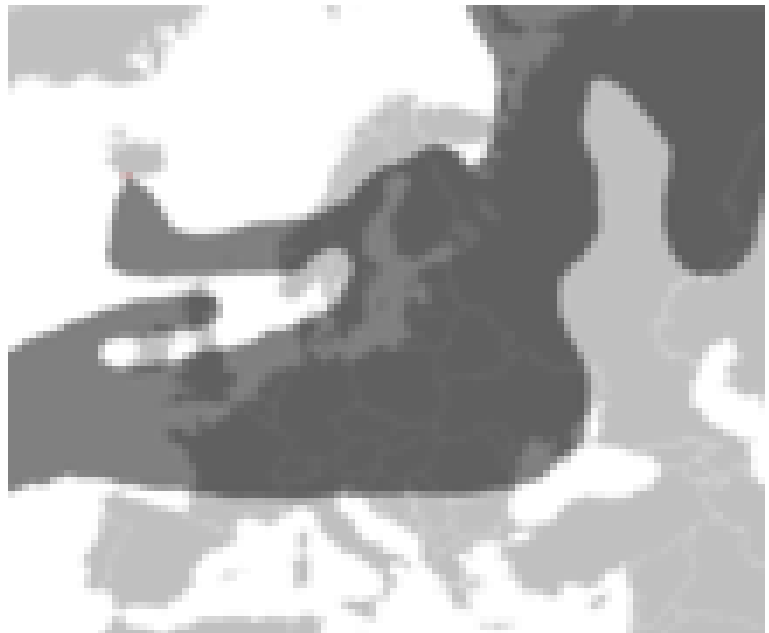
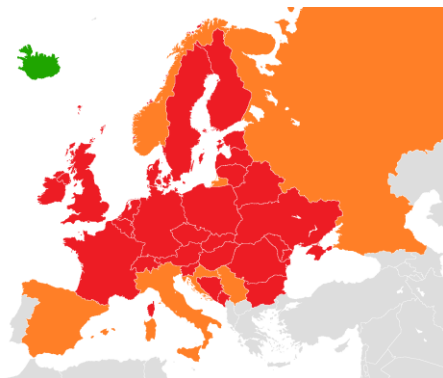
*Eruption at Fimmvörðuháls at dusk  
27 March 2010*

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia Files :Fimmvorduhals 2010 03 27 dawn.jpg ; Eyjafjallajökull volcano plume 2010 04 18.JPG



*Overlooking the Eyjafjallajökull glacier and  
the ongoing volcano eruption from Hvolsvöllur*

*An approximate depiction of the  
estimated ash cloud, as of  
18.00 UTC, April 17, 2010*



*Airspace completely (red) or partially (orange) closed to IFR traffic on 18 April 2010*

Because of the eruption of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano the aerial transport over Europe and Atlantic was completely paralyzed since April 15 until April 21. About 100.000 flights had to be cancelled, more than 300 airports and 10000000 passengers were concerned.



## Repeated floods in Moravia and elsewhere in Europe, Asia and America

Since 16 May 2010, **Moravia (the north-eastern part of the Czech Republic)** was struggling with floods caused by heavy raining. At least two people are known to have lost their lives. There were closed roads, municipalities without electricity or heat, and also households resisting evacuation out of fear of looting. One of the flooded municipalities was Troubky, a symbol of the devastating inundations from 1997, when nine inhabitants of the village of 2,000 people died. **This is the third flood to devastate some houses at Troubky in less than 13 years!**

Neighbouring **Poland, Slovakia and Hungary** were hit by floods too, and reported deaths. Huge floods have been reported in the course of last months also from **China, France and North America**.



*Police officers load sandbags to fix a broken dike near the town of Szendro in north-eastern Hungary. Parts of northeast Hungary and neighbouring Slovakia and the Czech Republic remain on high alert for floods. (AP)*

## NEW CHALLENGES FOR GEOETHICS!

## SOME RECENT NEWS

----- Original Message -----

From: "Satoshi Murao" <[s.murao@aist.go.jp](mailto:s.murao@aist.go.jp)>

Dear Dr Nemec,

My counterpart in Mongolia has contacted with Prof. Gerel<sup>x</sup> and knew that I can see her during my stay. In addition I was given an opportunity to talk about geoethics at an international meeting on July 30 in Ulaanbaatar.

For my preparation to discuss Mongolian people I would appreciate if you could advise on the official definition of geoethics and latest papers or abstracts on geoethics. Can I get some information from IUGS website?

Cheers,

Dr Satoshi Murao

<sup>x</sup> Professor Ochir GEREL is actually Vice-President of the IUGS; she is personally interested in the development of geoethics (she graduated at the Charles University in Prague); *in the photo at the right side with former IUGS President Zhan Hongren (at the left side) and with the new IUGS President Profesor Alberto Riccardi, in Sydney, 2008*



----- Original Message -----

From: "Jesus Martinez-Frias" <[martinezfj@inta.es](mailto:martinezfj@inta.es)>

Dear Vaclav,

I hope you are well. I have good news. I sent a letter to the Spanish Official Association of Geologists ("*ICOG: Ilustre Colegio Oficial de Geólogos*") informing about the significance of Geoethics, and soliciting its institutional backing. The Board liked very much our initiative of Geoethics and its response was very positive supporting it and encouraging for its development.

Kind regards and my best wishes to your wife,  
Jesus

\* \* \*

## GOOD NEWS: ALL GEOETHICS NEWS SINCE 2007 AVAILABLE!

Thanks to the AGID National Chapter in Spain and especially to its Coordinator Professor Jesus Martinez Frias all GEOETHICS NEWS have been published at  
[http://tierra.rediris.es/Geoethics\\_Planetary\\_Protection/](http://tierra.rediris.es/Geoethics_Planetary_Protection/)

It is necessary to follow the right side and to press the numbers of years or the months: [2010](#), [2009](#) ([Dec.](#), [Aug.](#), [June](#), [Apr.](#)), [2008](#) and [2007](#)

# MEMORANDUM TO GEOETHICS

on the regional discussion for Asia and the Pacific  
at the 18-th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development  
(CSD-18), UN. Details: [www.iisd.ca/csd/csd18](http://www.iisd.ca/csd/csd18)

(May 26, 2010)

1. This memorandum is on the regional panel discussion for Asia and the Pacific at the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-18) which was held on May 3, 2010 at the United Nations Headquarters.
2. The memorandum is submitted to the Geoethics **from Dr Satoshi Murao**, Senior Research Scientist at the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST) as information to discuss future activities of Geoethics.
3. At the panel discussion, Murao made a presentation on mining in the region as follows (see attached PPT file).

(1) In Asia-Pacific, progress has been made in advancing the goal of mining, both artisanal and large-scale, contributing to sustainable development, social and economic development.

(2) Regarding artisanal mining subsector, success stories are seen in Mongolia, Thailand and Japan.

In Mongolia miners obtained extraction contracts from their respective soum administrations to establish a mining site, and they organised themselves into partnerships, and jointly formed an umbrella organisation.

In Thailand, based on the community-participatory programs and in corporation with community-based organizations, a national institute has successfully rehabilitated some areas of heavy damages, and recovered vegetation and suitable soil for farming. In north-eastern part of Thailand farmers are now gaining profit from their agricultural products which are grown on once-contaminated land.

In Japan, an ethical jewelry firm was launched in Tokyo. Their products are made of ethically mined/recycled precious metals, diamond and other fair-trade materials.

(3) Key concepts to shape good mining in the future are “responsible mining to the society”, “acceptable mining by the society” and “geoethics”.

(4) Geoethics can incorporate traditional/indigenous knowledge and moral in Asia-Pacific and can be built as an extensional part of the culture.

4. In response to Murao’s talk, Mr Eduardo Munez, the Chair said the concept of geoethics is new and quite interesting.
5. Among the participants, the Delegation of Indonesia and the indigenous people’s group\* showed interest to geoethics. Indonesia stated that citizen’s ethics and implementation of CSR are keys to the sustainable growth, and further study on the practical mechanism to thrust geoethics is necessary. Indigenous group welcomed geoethics and said it was vital for the sustainable future. But they also expressed their anti-mining sentiment. Youth and children group mentioned about sustainability and healthy business.
6. Other delegations read prepared statement and did not mention about geoethics but the concept seems to be in harmony with their notion.

7. In addition to the panel discussion, Murao joined the thematic discussion on mining on May 5. In the discussion it was confirmed that indigenous people's issue is one of the pressing challenges for the mining sector. It seems appropriate to raise geoethics in this circumstance, and seems to be necessary to work with indigenous communities to bring the concept to top-level organizations such as UN.
8. The review session of CSD-18 is followed by the policy session in 2011. It may be a good timing to use the United Nations as a place to disseminate geoethics through the Major Groups' channel. It should be studied as soon as possible with which UN-registered organization geoethics can work to lobby the UNCSD. If succeeded, geoethics could obtain a leading role for the discussion at CSD-18 in that it can provide the stakeholders common principle to protect the earth and to secure safe and composed life of people.

\* At the United Nations conferences, citizens can participate to/observe the meeting if they are registered as "Major Groups". This group is composed of seven categories: farmer, indigenous people, scientific and technological communities, women, youth and children, local authorities, and NGOs.

\* \* \*

## EVENTS IN PREPARATION:



**THE MINING PŘÍBRAM SYMPOSIUM**  
**The International Section GEOETHICS**  
**OCTOBER 10 – 14, 2011 - Příbram, Czech Republic**  
with a joint meeting of the  
**Working Group for Geoethics (AGID)**

The agenda of the meeting will cover preparations for the International Geological Congress 2012 (with the AGID General Assembly and Symposia on Geoethics - see the following text).

**Contacts** at page 12



## THE 34<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

August 2 – 10, 2012;

Brisbane, Australia:

<http://www.34igc.org/>

### Some of the session topics as suggested by AGID:

- 1) Best practices for sustainable ground water development in low income countries (session related to UNESCO-IUGS-IGCP Project GROWNET). More about the project: [www.igcp-grownet.org](http://www.igcp-grownet.org).
- 2) Industrial minerals in national economy of developing countries.
- 3) Geoscience education at high school & university levels for sustainable resource development.
- 4) Ground water management of coastal aquifers.
- 5) Role of geoscientists in geo-tourism, eco-tourism and medical-tourism.
- 6) **Geoethics in theory and practice.**
- 7) Management of geoscientific hazards.

### More about GEOETHICS:

It is quite possible that GEOETHICS will be again organized in two (or even more) symposia. For explaining do read the correspondence between Prague and Australia in late April 2010:

**From:** Lidmila Nemcova

**Subject:** IGC 2012 - symposium GEOETHICS

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to make some additional explanations to the previous official AGID suggestions of the traditional Congress symposium on GEOETHICS (among those to be included again into the 34-th IGC programme) as well as to my formal suggestion (through web pages - see below).

The title (alternatively):

**Geoethics in theory and practice** or:

**Geoethics (I) - Theory and practice** to be used only when Geoethics II (or III ...) admitted - see Geoethics (II) in the further text .

**Convenors: Vaclav Nemec, (Mrs.) Lidmila Nemcova (both Czech Republic)** both active already in previous congresses since 1996, one additional co-convenor can be from Australia when personally interested in promoting the new discipline.



### **Symposium profile:**

GEOETHICS - born in 1991 at the junction of ethics and geology - 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 (finding ways how to solve them). It is to be developed with regard to all specificities of Earth sciences as well as to social responsibility of their representatives. Geoethics can serve as means of influence over consciousness of the whole population all over the world primarily in connection with natural hazards (including unavoidable disasters) and with a sustainable use of mineral resources. Also usual problems of professional ethics can be discussed. Methods applied by geoethics are the same as in other fields of knowledge: mainly education, cultivation and culture that lead substantially to find responsible solutions and to make responsible decisions based on priorities of spiritual and moral values common to all mankind. The interests of future generations are to be taken into consideration and fully respected. Regular symposia on Geoethics have been organised at the IGC since 1996; already since 1992 more frequent regular international meetings on geoethics take place at Přeborn (Czech Republic) including sessions of the Working Group for Geoethics under the umbrella of AGID (since 2005 every second year).

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Geoethics (II)**

**Dr. Silvia Peppoloni** (National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology, Rome, Italy) has informed me about her own suggestion delivered to the IGC organizers under the title "**Geological culture and Geoethics: influence of Geosciences on social behaviours and the role of the Geoscientists**". As in the case of previous Congresses it might be possible to organize such a symposium in vicinity of the aforementioned Geoethics I but with a change of the title - eg. **Geoethics (II): the Role of the Geoscientists in Influencing Social Behaviour and Culture of the Society**.

I think that Dr. Peppoloni will be able as convenor to bring a needed core of presenters (as Professor Paul Reitan did for the Oslo IGC).

\*\*\*\*\*

**Geoethics (III) ?** An analogical approach can be applied in case of another special topic with a liaison to geoethics (if such a suggestion appears).

For additional information I am sending you enclosed recent GEOETHICS NEWS (March 2010) as well as those of November 2008 (referring about Geoethics as presented in Oslo at the previous IGC). Both documents may help in opening other interesting information sources.

Best regards,  
Dr. Vaclav Nemec,  
Vice-President AGID (for Europe),  
Head, WG for Geoethics

From: [Paul.Kay@ga.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Kay@ga.gov.au)

To: [lidmila.nemcova@quick.cz](mailto:lidmila.nemcova@quick.cz)

Subject: RE: IGC 2012 - symposium GEOETHICS [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Lidmila,

Thanks for the message and your valuable input.

The IGC Organising Committee has your information recorded and will be working on the details of the preliminary program in the near future.

Kind regards

Paul Kay

## Attending the 34th IGC in Australia?

To assist the IGC Planning Committee - and to get your name on the list for future announcements - if you are planning to attend, or thinking about attending, or planning to give a paper, or wish to suggest a session etc, or wish to exhibit/sponsor at the Congress you are invited to register your interest now on the IGC website at <http://www.34igc.org/expressions-of-interest.html> through the "Register your interest" tab.

If you subsequently register your details you will be amongst the first to be advised when IGC registration opens in 2011. Registrations received within the first 100 days of Early Bird registration opening will be in the running to win a free airfare (economy class) to Australia.

\* \* \*

## Retrospective visit of the previous 33<sup>rd</sup> IGC (Oslo, 2008):

<http://www.33igc.org/>

For Geoethics search: *Scientific programme – find by sessions – Information, Education, Ethics, History - IEE-07 and IEE-08 (abstracts)*

\* \* \*

## THE NEW GEOETHICISTS GROUP IN RUSSIA

Dr. N. K. Nikitina has started a process of establishing a new organization at the whole territory of Russia with the aim to bring together all geoethicists in the country. The provisional title of this organization: **Association of Geoethicists in Russia**. Suggestions for a Constitution and Conception are to be sent to her e-mail address: [NikitinaNK@mmcintergeo.ru](mailto:NikitinaNK@mmcintergeo.ru); phone: +7 495 287 29 52, extension number 140.

\* \* \*

**AGID MEMBERSHIP** explained in Geoethics News December 2009 ([Dec.](#)). Efforts to establish AGID National Chapters in other countries have been reported.

# CHARTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Thanks to Dr. Nikitina an interesting document of the Oxford University has been discovered at <http://www.naturalresourcecharter.org/>

You can download versions of the Charter in [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#) and [Russian](#). The following text is taken from the **DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION** (page 3 among 26pp.)

## The Precepts

- 1) The development of natural resources should be designed to secure the ***maximum benefit*** for the citizens of the host country.
- 2) Extractive resources are public assets and decisions around their exploitation should be ***transparent*** and subject to ***informed public oversight***.
- 3) ***Competition*** is a critical mechanism to secure value and integrity.
- 4) Fiscal terms must be robust to ***changing circumstances*** and ensure the country gets the full value from its resources.
- 5) ***National resource companies*** should be competitive and commercial operations. They should avoid conducting regulatory functions or other activities.
- 6) Resource projects may have serious ***environmental and social effects*** which must be accounted for and mitigated at all stages of the project cycle.
- 7) Resource revenues should be used primarily to promote ***sustained economic growth*** through enabling and maintaining high levels of domestic investment.
- 8) Effective utilization of resource revenues requires that ***domestic expenditure be built up gradually*** and be ***smoothed*** to take account of revenue volatility.
- 9) Government should use resource wealth as an opportunity to secure effective public expenditure and to increase the ***efficiency of public spending***.
- 10) Government policy should ***facilitate private sector investments*** in response to new opportunities and structural changes associated with resource wealth.
- 11) The ***home governments*** of extractive companies and ***international capital centres*** should require and enforce best practice.
- 12) ***All extraction companies*** should follow ***best practice*** in contracting, operations and payments.

**There are three ways you can contribute to the building of the Charter:**

- 1) You can **email any comments** to:  
[naturalresourcecharter@revenuewatch.org](mailto:naturalresourcecharter@revenuewatch.org)
- 2) Alternatively, you **can post comments** and suggestions on the Charter by logging in via this link: [Login](#)
- 3) Finally, you are invited to **complete a short survey**.

**Your comments and suggestions will be appreciated also in GEOETHICS NEWS.**

## CONTACTS

(for THE MINING PŘÍBRAM 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. Václav Němec

or/and

The Mining Příbram Symposium

K rybníčkům 17

P.O. Box 41

100 00 Praha 10 - Strašnice

261 92 Příbram

Czech Republic

Czech Republic

**or by the fax to**

(++420) 318644148 - THE MINING PRIBRAM SYMPOSIUM

\* \* \*

**AGID** web pages: [www.bgs.ac.uk/agid](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/agid)

All **Geoethics News** since 2007 (see page 5):

[http://tierra.rediris.es/Geoethics\\_Planetary\\_Protection/](http://tierra.rediris.es/Geoethics_Planetary_Protection/)

\* \* \*

## CONCLUSION

**Many thanks for informing your colleagues who may be interested. Any your help in promoting the ideas of GEOETHICS will be highly appreciated.**

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.

Everybody interested in any of AGID activities is encouraged to use any of aforementioned possibilities to join AGID and its structures.

**I wish you all – also in the name of my wife Lidmila Němcová – very nice holidays and lot of new energy for your further activities.**

**Looking forward to get news from you and to continue in work with you,**

**Dr. Václav Němec**

Vice President for Europe, AGID

Head, the AGID Working Group for Geoethics

Convenor of regular international sessions on Geoethics,  
the Mining Příbram Symposium