

GEOETHICS NEWS

March 2010

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Working Group for Geoethics (in the framework of AGID-the International Association for International Development) and as convenors of the international section GEOETHICS at the Mining Příbram Symposia we send you our best wishes of a

HAPPY EASTER.



We are just living in a dark shadow of many recent earthquakes and other heavy damages to people all over the Earth. May these days - remembering victory over death - also renew all efforts of Earth scientists to decipher laws of the nature and to increase possibilities of forecasting natural disasters. Vis-à-vis recent and potential future threats caused by inevitable and to some extent regular processes in the Earth crust geoethics also should help to improve the needed sensibility for responsibility of Earth scientists as well as of political circles.

Sincerely yours,

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

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FROM THE IUGS E-BULLETIN (NO. 47, JANUARY 2010)

TRAGIC EARTHQUAKE HITS HAITI

As we were going to press with this latest IUGS e-Bulletin, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck Haiti, near the city of Port-au-Prince on 12 January 2010 causing immeasurable loss of life and damage to critical infrastructure. As we usher in the year 2010, we are humbly reminded that many tragedies around the world often relate to the dynamic nature of planet Earth. As Earth Scientists, we all well appreciate the need to better understand the causes of natural hazards. It is terrible and unfortunate that events such as earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides and volcanic eruptions continue to impact such significant numbers of people around the world. Our collective efforts through geoscience education, practical field research and innovative studies can help to minimize the risks of natural hazards, reduce human vulnerability and enhance the safety of the global society. On behalf of the many geoscientists represented by the IUGS, we send our heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the many people affected by this recent catastrophe.

The IUGS has maintained a resolution on natural disasters which is outlined as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE IUGS

Whereas major natural disasters heighten awareness of the existence of geological hazards worldwide the **International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)** recognizes:

1. That earthquakes, on-land landslides, floods, and volcanic eruptions constitute significant potential for natural disasters;
2. That a substantial portion, if not most, of the global human population resides in areas characterized by significant risk of the occurrence of natural disasters;
3. That the tendency of the International Community to concentrate on reaction to natural hazards, rather than on preparation and their mitigation, operates to increase their cost to amounts much greater than that of preparation and mitigation;
4. That the lack of education in and awareness of Geological Sciences worldwide tends to decrease awareness of the possibility of natural disasters and preparation for them and thus exacerbate their human and economic toll when they inevitably occur;
5. That in the aftermath of a natural disaster, widespread knowledge of the geological sciences and of existing technology could assist rescue agencies and civil defence managers to obtain faster understanding of the extent of the damage from the event and how to cope with it;
6. That the reduction of the predictive uncertainty of a natural disaster is the most important issue in natural hazards reduction, but that reduction requires a thorough understanding of the nature of the geological processes giving rise to the disaster;
7. That the reduction of damages by a natural disaster requires a series of actions previous to its occurrence, where the understanding of the geological scenario is essential to a sound and safe planning of human settlements.

THE IUGS RECOMMENDS:

1. That systems and procedures be established for early warning, developing public awareness including Geological Science education, regional evacuation routes, and shelters with locations based on appropriate geological information, including maps of existing geological hazards;
2. That comprehensive education in the Geological Sciences, including knowledge of local geological hazards and their risk, become an integral part of education systems at all levels and in all countries;
3. That regional disaster management systems be organized where they do not now exist, and that existing disaster management systems be made more effective, and that these systems take steps effectively to monitor known indicators of all natural disasters;
4. That multidisciplinary and multinational research programs and research networks on geological hazards and risks be developed to improve the professional and public awareness of and understanding of the phenomena associated with such hazards, and that efforts be increased to develop forecasting capability of such hazards;
5. That international agencies and developed countries should provide economic and technical help to support the above mentioned programs and systems within developing countries with regions characterized by significant risk of the occurrence of natural disasters, in the understanding that any help provided before a disaster occurrence surely will save more lives than if the same help is provided afterwards.

THE IUGS RESOLVES:

1. To continue promoting the development and application of scientific expertise and experience in understanding the geological forces at work in the development of all types of natural hazards and the processes involved in their mitigation of natural hazards;
2. To continue sharing this information as freely as possible with other members of the scientific community, government officials, policy makers and planners, the insurance industry and the public as a whole.

COMMENT FROM THE GEOETHICS POINT OF VIEW

Any item of the IUGS Resolution can and should be considered from the geoethical point of view because of a strong liaison with problems of *responsibility*. This responsibility could be observed at many levels: *individual, corporate, regional, national* and *global*. *Social impact* for all the mankind should not be forgotten. The appropriate *sensibility* to all these problems should be promoted.

For almost 20 years geoethics as a new discipline joining both Earth sciences and ethics has step-by-step intensified the focus of attention on problems of natural disasters. In 2004 the AGID started to act as an umbrella for further geoethical activities. We hope that the recent natural disasters will be reflected by an increased interest for co-operation with the appropriate Working Group for Geoethics.

Inevitable dynamic processes in the Earth crust with all following natural disasters should be always taken into consideration when promoting *sustainability*. It is a big challenge for a general and global enlightening and education process where geoethics can serve to the well being of all the mankind.



THE MINING PRIBRAM 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 Symposium on Geoethics (see the text on p. 5). - **Contacts:** see p. 8.

Happy Remembrances of October 2009 in Příbram

*Thank you very much for your organisational effort without which these meetings would not be more realized. The whole event was very interesting and agreeable and – if the circumstances will allow it – I shall come again next time. **Jaroslav Chyba** (Czech Republic)*

Dear Dr. Vaclav Nemec and Mrs. Lidmila Nemcova,

Thanks for your undoubtedly great work in organizing the meeting on geoethics in Příbram. It made it possible to realize a further step in developing geoethics. ...

Sincerely yours,

Nataliya Nikitina (Russian Federation)

Dear Dr. Nemec,

We have arrived at our house on schedule without any problem. We are very happy to meet you and discuss many things, and we would like to thank you for your kind arrangement in Praha and Příbram.

We had two meetings in Praha on Oct. 10 and Oct. 17, and discussed not only on our session of geoethics but also many things including historical and cultural topics. I think our meeting is very valuable as we could discuss on the future of the geoethics.

An officer of the Science Council of Japan suggests me that our meetings should be for scientific discussion, even when including other matters.

Yours Sincerely,

Prof. Niichi Nishiwaki (Japan)

Dear Mrs. Nemcova, dear Dr. Nemec!

Many thanks for sending the Geoethic News which again remembered me of the interesting meeting we had in Příbram, on the excellent organization of which I should like to congratulate both of you again and explicitly. Your efforts in promoting the ideas of Geoethics are highly valued and appreciated.

For the coming year I wish you luck and happiness and a successful continuation of your work. I am looking forward to having an opportunity to meet you again.

With my very best personal regards!

Professor F. L. Wilke (Germany)

PHOTOGALLERY:
OCTOBER 2009 – GEOETHICISTS IN PRIBRAM AND ELSEWHERE
Photo: N.Nikitina, N.Niichiwaki, S.Peppoloni+ G.diCapua, archives of the Mining Pribram Symposium

From the session:



L.Nemcova



V.Nemec



A.Byrska-Rapala



N.K.Nikitina



N.Niichiwaki



S.Peppoloni



From the opening ceremony of the Symposium:



From the social party:



L.Nemcova&J.Nakajima Polish, Russian and Czech Participants Mrs.&Prof.F.L.Wilke

From the miners evening:



From the excursion:

PISEK: both historical monuments of the old royal city as well as recent reconstruction after horrible floods of 2002 (the bridge with statues at that time completely under water)



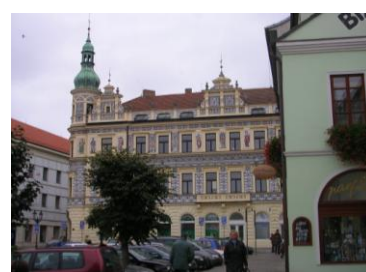
The eldest stone bridge in Bohemia



A relax in a typical old style restaurant



The old royal palace from the river (at left) and from the other side (nowadays serves as museum – its Director was our guide)



One among many typical houses in the city

VYSOKÁ: visit to the Memorial Museum of Antonin Dvorak and to the currently inaccessible Dvorak family private summer residence – the famous Czech composer wrote just here many chefs d’oeuvre (as explained by his last living grandson who took part in the whole excursion)



Arrival to the A.Dvorak Museum



V.Nemec tasted the grand piano



Interesting expositions



The great composer was living in this house (which as well as the garden still belong to the family)



In the Dvorak family house



The grandson of the composer Mr. Antonin Dvorak III explaining...



SCIENCE AND CULTURE IN PRAGUE



The “long distance” visitors of the Pribram Symposia usually combine their visit with a transit stay in Prague –Prof. Nishiwaki was here for the first time 20 years ago, his wife just in 2009; many problems were discussed with the convenors and also a concert in the Dvorak Hall was added to the program

OTHER EVENTS IN PREPARATION:



THE 34th 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).
- 2) Industrial minerals in national economy of developing countries.
- 3) Geoscience education at high school & university level 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.**

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/expression-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.

Also visit the website to check out some of the wide range of scientific tours/field-trips currently being planned in Australia, New Zealand, and Malaysia etc. Go to the "Technical Tours" tab at the bottom of the IGC website front page at <<http://www.34igc.org/>>.

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Retrospective visit of the previous 33rd 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)*

NEWS FROM ITALY

Dear Colleagues,

I wish to thank Dr. Nemec and the whole organization of the Symposium for the warm welcome and for providing us with an opportunity to debate. Very interesting ideas came out of the discussion, on which to continue working.

Waiting to meet you all again, I inform you that I intend to organize a workshop on Geoethics here in Rome next year, in order to give continuity to our efforts and to the debate.

In the meantime, I send to those of you interested, the abstracts that have been produced in Rimini, on the occasion of the session on Geoethics, during the 7th Italian Forum of Earth Sciences - Geoitalia, in last September.

Best regards

Dr. Silvia Peppoloni

National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology, v. Nizza, 128 - 00198 Rome, Italy
phone: 0039 06 855082017; fax: 0039 06 855082007; mobile: 0039 339 3794923
email: silvia.peppoloni@ingv.it

(written in 2009; efforts to organize a workshop confirmed in 2010)

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AGID MEMBERSHIP

(extract from Geoethics News December 2009)

AGID is an increasingly de-centralised organisation and wishes to make it easy for all geoscientists who sympathise with its aims to establish national AGID networks and initiate local activities. With this objective in mind the following guidelines have been promulgated.

Anyone interested in becoming a Member of AGID is asked to contact the relevant AGID Vice President and Secretary General of AGID (**see AGID website: www.bgs.ac.uk/agid** for contact details) and in accordance with further advice from these officers either contact their respective national AGID representative. **Where there is no national representative, they may wish to establish a local national AGID network. The general aims of AGID can be found on the AGID website.**

Such local national networks may be deemed a **national chapter of AGID** and may be a purely informal body and levy appropriate membership dues in local currency and use any money so raised for local administration and local projects/events. If, however, levying annual subscriptions requires the national network to be legally registered in the country, then any money required for local administration should be raised from members on an ad hoc voluntary basis. All members of such a network will be considered as normal members of AGID. One member of such a local chapter should be nominated as a contact person and their names communicated to the relevant regional Vice President and Secretary General

of AGID. The contact person should send a brief annual report at the end of the calendar year listing new members and contacts with any other AGID projects, working groups or other activities such as preparing symposia for International Geological Congresses etc.

A national chapter of AGID may also be part of a recognised national association of earth scientists (e.g. a national Geological Society) or part of a specialist group of such an association. Members will in this case pay their normal membership fees to the respective national Association/Society but again a contact person should be nominated from the group for liaison with AGID centrally. The contact person should send a brief annual report to the Secretary General of AGID detailing activities in which the AGID name is used and contacts during the year with other AGID groups/working parties etc. All members of the group will be regarded as normal AGID members. Such groups might explore the possibility of the society to which they subscribe providing some funds for specific local activities in which the interests of AGID and their Society coincide (e.g. working groups and activities linked to geoscience and development).

Of course the previous practice of accepting individual AGID members individually paying their membership fees directly to the AGID Secretary General and Treasurer can be continued.

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AGID NATIONAL CHAPTERS

The new AGID National Chapter in Spain – constituted at the end of 2009 - includes 13 members who belong to four universities, two public research organizations and two Science Museums. This "official foundational group" of the AGID Spanish Chapter, in this first step, is mainly focused on Geoethics. The Spanish website is hosted thanks to the backing of the Thematic Network of Earth Science in Spain (TIERRA) – already some news for 2010 are included as well as needed links to AGID website:

http://tierra.rediris.es/Geoethics_Planetary_Protection/

The contact person (Coordinator) of the AGID Spanish Chapter is **Prof. Dr. Jesus Martinez Frias**, Planetology Laboratory, Centro de Astrobiologia (CSIC/INTA) associated to the NASA Astrobiology Institute, Ctra de Ajalvir km. 4., 28850 Torrejon de Ardoz, Madrid (Spain); e-mail: martinezfj@inta.es .

Among the news of the group: the Spanish colleagues propose an ethical code for investigations and conservation of meteorites.

The AGID National Chapter exists also in the Czech Republic. The contact person: Dr. Václav Němec (e-mail: lidmila.nemcova@quick.cz).

Efforts to establish AGID National Chapters in several other countries have been already reported.

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 (conveners) and 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 - Strašnice		261 92 Příbram
Czech Republic		Czech Republic

or by the fax to

(++420) 318644148 - THE MINING PŘÍBRAM SYMPOSIUM

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AGID web pages: www.bgs.ac.uk/agid

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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.

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

Dr. Vaclav Nemec

Vice President for Europe, AGID
Convenor of regular international sessions on Geoethics,
the Mining Příbram Symposium

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

Be so kind to send the following questionnaire (if not sent in December) by the e-mail to
lidmila.nemcova@quick.cz ; marcinikova@diamo.cz
or by the mail or fax to the above given addresses (see CONTACTS – p. 8).

QUESTIONNAIRE

Personal data:

Name:

Address:

E-mail:

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

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

Working Group for Geoethics (x – *inappropriate indications to be deleted*):

- x I am interested to continue in an active co-operation
- x I am interested only to get further GEOETHICS NEWS

AGID membership (x – *inappropriate indications to be deleted*):

- x I am already regular member of AGID
- x I want to be a corresponding AGID member
- x I want to be member of the AGID national chapter in my country
- x I am interested to initiate and coordinate a new AGID chapter in my country
- x I am recommending for the coordinator of a new AGID chapter in my country
(name, contact address):

Events in preparation - Probability of participation (x – *inappropriate indications to be deleted*):

1. **THE MINING PRIBRAM SYMPOSIUM 2011 (October 10-14)** - the international section on geoethics
x high x medium x low x I shall not attend
2. **The 34-th International Geological Congress – Brisbane 2012 (August 2-10)**
x high x medium x low x I shall not attend

Other special wishes, remarks, suggestions: