

GEOETHICS NEWS

October 2011



THE 50TH MINING PŘÍBRAM SYMPOSIUM

INTERNATIONAL SECTIONS:

a) MATHEMATICAL METHODS IN GEOLOGY

Prague: October 7- 9; Příbram: October 10 -12

b) GEOETHICS

Příbram: October 10 -14

Many thanks to all participants and contributors!
Looking forward to news from you and to our further co-operation,
With best personal regards,

Václav Němec* and **Lidmila Němcová****,
Convenors

** Dr. Václav Němec: at the Mining Příbram Symposia convenor of international sections on Mathematical Geology (1968 - 1999, 2011) and on Geoethics (1992 – 2011); **AGID Vice-President for Europe**, Head of the AGID Working Group for Geoethics, founding member and Eastern Treasurer of the **IAMG** (1968 - 1980, 1984 - 1996).*

*** Prof. Lidmila Němcová: besides her activity for the Mining Příbram Symposia (since 1985) co-founder and presently President of the Society for Ethics in Economics in the Czech Republic, member of various European structures oriented to business ethics and social dialogue, co-founder of the Czech branch of the European Anti-Poverty Network.*

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The complete set of GEOETHICS NEWS (published since 2007) as well as other interesting useful news about various events in the field of GEOETHICS are available at the web page of the AGID National Chapter in Spain:

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

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DECLARATION

of the AGID Working Group for Geoethics
Příbram, Czech Republic, October 2011

On October 10 – 14, 2011 the traditional international section on GEOETHICS was organized in the framework of the 50th Jubilee Mining Příbram Symposium as a regular meeting of the Working Group for Geoethics (operating since 2004 under the umbrella of the Association of Geoscientists for International Development) and convened since 1992 by Dr. Václav Němec (AGID Vice-president for Europe) and by Dr. Lidmila Němcová (President of the Czech Society for Ethics in Economics).

At the occasion of the Symposium jubilee a joint meeting with another traditional international section on Mathematical Methods in Geology was co-organized on October 10 at Příbram with the participation of the International Association for Mathematical Geology (in the presence of the IAMG President Prof. Vera Pawlowsky - Glahn). A separate session of mathematical geologists was held in Prague on October 8, 2011.

More than 60 representatives from 18 countries were **present** or sent their contributions: Albania, **Algeria**, Australia, **Brazil**, **Czech Republic**, **P.R. of China**, Finland, **France**, **Germany**, Greece, **Japan**, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, **Poland**, **Russian Federation**, **Senegal**, **Spain**, **United Kingdom**.

Total number of printed contributions: 29

Total number of oral contributions: 24 (2 of them not printed)

The following recommendations were agreed:

- 1) To emphasize the significance of geoethics in the context of facing extraordinary natural hazards and disasters in the course of recent years.
- 2) To incorporate a geoethical approach to needed new legal aspects (including insurance policy) and to an ethical way of thinking.
- 3) To strengthen the links of geoethics with the new aspects of the geosciences education.
- 4) To recommend the inclusion of geoethical subjects into deontological codes.
- 5) To emphasize the liaison with the mining engineers activities.
- 6) To remark a need of searching new priorities for the 3rd Millenium fitting the World Millenium Goals.
- 7) To recommend links for incorporating geoethics into any activity related with the abiotic world.
- 8) In order to avoid any misunderstanding and confusion about the character of the meeting hosted by the Mining Příbram Symposium, future meetings should use the term of the INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GEOETHICS.

Dr. Václav Němec
AGID Vice-president for Europe
Head, AGID Working Group for Geoethics



REPORT

on the international meeting on GEOETHICS
held at Příbram, Czech Republic, October 2011

Introduction

On October 10 – 14, 2011 the traditional INTERNATIONAL SECTION ON GEOETHICS was hosted by the 50th Jubilee Mining Příbram Symposium as a regular meeting of the Working Group for Geoethics (operating since 2004 under the umbrella of the Association of Geoscientists for International Development) and convened since 1992 by Dr. Václav Němec (AGID Vice-president for Europe) and by Dr. Lidmila Němcová (President of the Czech Society for Ethics in Economics). On the occasion of the Mining Příbram Symposium jubilee a joint meeting with another traditional international section on Mathematical Methods in Geology was also co-organized with the participation of the International Association for Mathematical Geology (in the presence of the IAMG President Prof. Vera Pawlowsky-Glahn). The meeting was dedicated to the memory of one among the first promoters of geoethics and almost permanent visitor of Příbram meetings – the Polish scientist **Adam Stefan TREMBECKI** (*professor emeritus* of the School of Mines and Metallurgy in Cracow; rector of the High School of Management in Legnica; 1921 – 2007) to remember 90 years from his birth.

Several social and cultural events completed the program.

Publications

A joint printed Proceedings volume has been edited for the participants of both international sections “M” and “G” (ISBN 978-80-904993-1-7) whereas all papers with complete coloured illustrations have been issued in the electronic version of Proceedings of the complete Symposium 2011 (ISBN 978-80-904993-0-0).

Countries

The representatives from following 12 countries were present: *Algeria, Brazil, Czech Republic, P.R. of China, France, Japan, Germany, Poland, Russian Federation, Senegal, Spain, United Kingdom*. For unexpected reasons (mostly health problems) the following persons had to cancel their participation but sent their greetings to the meeting: the IUGS Vicepresident Prof. Ochir Gerel (*Mongolia*); the former UNESCO Division Director Dr. Kaisa Savolainen (*Finland*); the former frequent participant Prof. Azimkhan Kurmankozhaev (*Kazakhstan*). Short communications were printed from Anesti Qirinxhi/Kirintzi (*Albania/Greece*) and Jennifer Joi Field and Prof. Joe Remenyi (*Australia*).

Statistics

Total number of represented countries: 18

Total number of persons presented at the meetings on geoethics: more than 60

Total number of printed contributions for Geoethics: 29

Total number of orally presented contributions for Geoethics: 24 (two of them added to the program and not included in the proceedings: J. Martínez-Frías: *Information about the Deontological Code*; F. L. Wilke: *Variety of possible profitability presentations of mining processes*).

Total number of persons presented at the Symposium: 220

History

The inaugurating plenary session of the 50th symposium included a lecture by Dr. Václav Němec: *International sections "MATHEMATICAL METHODS IN GEOLOGY" and "GEOETHICS" – an integral part of the Mining Příbram Symposia*. Mathematical geology was represented in twenty annual symposia from the 50 years (19 in the period 1968 – 1999 and the 20th in 2011) with the total number of 1509 published contributions from a large spectrum of more than 30 countries; almost all of them were officially reported as regular meetings of the International Association for Mathematical Geology.

The international meetings on Geoethics were represented in 11 sessions (regularly since 1992) and a total of 287 written published contributions from authors of 29 countries have been published. Since 2005 these meetings have been serving as a basis for the AGID Working Group for Geoethics.

The internationally recognized image of the meetings of mathematical geology at the Mining Příbram Symposia helped very much to the rapidly growing international interest for geoethics at the same organizational basis. Voluntary work has always been typical for the Symposium and continues to help in maintaining the relatively very low registration fees and other conditions friendly to arriving participants.

Special topics of interest presented and discussed

- The presence of two colleagues from Japan (Professors Nishiwaki and Ohsaka) has been highly appreciated because of authentic information they were able to provide about the great catastrophe of March 2011; also other presentations (e.g. from Professor Tan, P.R. China) emphasized the increasing number of natural hazards and disasters in the course of recent years; the significance of geoethics in this context is eminent (incl. new aspects for urbanization etc.).
- New legal aspects were covered by several presentations (Drs. Chyba, Němec and Ondruš from the Czech Republic as well as Prof. Nieć from Poland) as well as in the discussions. They need to be incorporated (including new aspects for insurance policy) together with an ethical way of thinking (presentation of Prof. Němcová) to the sphere of priority interests of geoethics.
- New geoeducation aspects need to be cultivated by strengthening the appropriate links with geoethics.
- Geoethical subjects are to be recommended for any further application of Deontological codes (example from the Spanish AGID National Chapter and the ICOG = Spanish "*Ilustre Colegio Oficial de Geólogos*").
- Liaison with the mining engineers' activities should be emphasized (Prof. Wilke).
- Need of searching new priorities (instead of profit) for the 3rd Millenium should fit also the existing World Millenium Goals.
- Links for incorporating geoethics into any activity related with the abiotic world are to be recommended.

Geoethics for the 34th IGC Brisbane (August 2012):

Dr. Němec as lead convener of the Symposium 2.5 presented basic information about preparations. All details concerning geoethics at the Congress are being continually reported in GEOETHICS NEWS.

Structures for GEOETHICS within IUGS:

Since 2004 AGID has been the only organization offering continuous activities in the field of GEOETHICS (mainly through Working Group for Geoethics and regular international meetings at Příbram, GEOETHICS NEWS and web pages [http://tierra.rediris.es/Geoethics Planetary Protection/](http://tierra.rediris.es/Geoethics_Planetary_Protection/)) within the structures of the IUGS. In this context the original contribution of the AGID Secretary General/Treasurer A. J. Reedman *The Association of Geoscientists for International Development and "Geoethics": Past, Present and Future* (published already in GEOETHICS NEWS – JUNE 2011) should be mentioned.

The main goals:

- To encourage establishing further AGID National Chapters with possibility to develop "tailor-made" activities for individual countries and regions.
- To study the possibility of establishing a new Task Group for IUGS.

Dr. Němec is authorized for further negotiations with AGID (planned meeting with Dr. A. J. Reedman in London in a near future) and with the IUGS.

Recommendations

The following group of internationally recognized experts took part in the final edition of the **Declaration of the AGID Working Group for Geoethics**: Dr. Václav Němec (chairman), Professors Jesus Martinez – Frías (chairman, IUGS/COGE), Niichi Nishiwaki (President, Japan Society of Geoinformatics), Haiqiao Tan (Professor of China University of Mining and Technology, Member of GSC: The Geographical Society of China), F. Ludwig Wilke (former long serving member of the International committee for APCOM, emeritus professor of TU-Berlin).

The text of the Declaration with the agreed 8 final recommendations is published at page 2.

Dr. Václav Němec

AGID Vice-president for Europe
Head, AGID Working Group for Geoethics



A good job done – the draft of the Declaration approved:

Dr. Václav Němec (Czech Republic), Professors Niichi Nishiwaki (Japan), F. Ludwig Wilke (Germany), Haiqiao Tan (P. R. China) and Jesus Martinez-Frías (Spain) in the library of the building at Příbram where the session of the editing group took place)

From the opening plenary session of the Symposium



From the social evening



Professor from Japan talking with the Polish group, behind them colleagues from Russia, China and Germany



Dr. Chyba (Czech Rep.) with Prof. Vera Pawlowsky-Glahn (IAMG President, Spain), Mrs. and Prof. F. L. Wilke (Germany), Dr. Němec (Czech Rep.), Dr. Egozcue (Spain)

GREETINGS TO THE ORGANIZERS OF THE 50TH MINING PŘÍBRAM SYMPOSIUM

Kaisa SAVOLAINEN, PhD, Division Director, UNESCO in Paris (1986-2001)

Twenty years ago, in April 1991, I attended the Workshop on Adult Education for International Understanding, Human Rights and Peace organized by the UNESCO Institute for Education, Hamburg. The theme of the workshop was related to my responsibilities in the Education Sector of UNESCO, and in my speech at the workshop I presented my views on new priorities concerning education & human rights. In that intervention I raised the issue of "geoethics" in the following way:

New ethical questions emerging from the development of science and technology such as "bioethics" and "geoethics" are topics to be integrated into all education. Children as well as adults should be informed of scientific discoveries in biology and medicine, but they should also have an opportunity to consider the consequences of these developments from the ethical point of view, and their consequences for human rights, and to be aware of the opinions expressed by bioethical committees which have been formed in many countries. "Geoethics" or environmental ethics is an absolute and urgent necessity since it is a factor that now influences the quality of life for the future and even the survival of humankind.

It seems that I have used the concept of geoethics in this context as an alternative to environmental ethics although I can not now, 20 years later, trace from where I have taken the concept of geoethics into my speech. It is possible that I have read it from some of the articles of your participants during that time because, the Mining Příbram Symposium has included since 1992 specialized international sections on geoethics (application of ethics in the fields of Earth sciences). Through search the UNESCO- web site with the word "geoethics" you can still trace the report of that seminar including my intervention there¹. Otherwise I have not seen within UNESCO context the use of the concept of geoethics. However, you can find in the UNESCO – web site information of the Global Ethics Observatory². Perhaps you could consider proposing information of your activities to be included.

It is important that scientists and experts reflect on ethical aspects and that they are discussed internationally and by international organizations as well, before these topics can be integrated into all education. I considered 20 years ago issues as geoethics important to international understanding, human rights and peace, but to-day - in the light of the increase of the world population and standard of living- ethical considerations in the utilization of global resources are even more important. More than ever, ethical principles are needed for our survival and peace in the world.

While regretting not being able to participate into your important and interesting symposium in PŘÍBRAM, I wish you with all my heart great success in your proceedings.

October 2, 2011, Helsinki (Finland)

Kaisa Savolainen, PhD³

¹ Savolainen, K. 1991. Education and Human Rights: New Priorities. In Adult Education for International Understanding, Human rights and Peace. Report of the workshop held at UIE, Hamburg, 19-19 April 1991. ISSN 1014-9880. <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0009/000951/095164mo.pdf>

² <http://www.unesco.org/shs/ethics/geo/user/>

³ Kaisa Savolainen (Finland) earned her Ph.D. from the University of Jyväskylä, Finland in 2010. Her thesis, *Education as a means to world peace: the case of the 1974 UNESCO Recommendation*, is available from the University Library of Jyväskylä, P.O. Box 35, FI-40014, and electronically from <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-951-39-4086-7>

COMMENT: The Greetings of Dr. Savolainen are to be added to the Symposium Proceedings as paper Nr. G 20. It is a testimony of the double jubilee: the use of the term “geoethics” by K. Savolainen in 1991 was independent of the introduction of the geoethics ideas by myself in the same period (at the origin I was using the term “geoethics” just as a “oral” working term).

Václav Němec

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FROM THE FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF PARTICIPANTS
about the international meeting on GEOETHICS at Příbram (October 2011)

Dear Vaclav,

Congratulations for the extraordinary workshop, thanks a lot to you (and your wife) for your kindness and I express my consent and approval regarding the Declaration of the AGID Working Group for Geoethics.

Kind regards,

Jesus MARTINEZ-FRÍAS (Spain)

Dear Dr. Nemec,

I arrived Japan this morning and am writing an essay for a Japanese newspaper, for which I have been writing monthly essay for the last 6 years..... Basic idea for the essay is to let Japanese know more widely about you and about Geoethics. ...

The symposium was one of the most productive symposia I have ever attended. ...

Best regards.

Tokio OHSKA (Japan)

... I thank you from my heart for the rich program of our sojourn at the conference – for scientific impressions from a new field of geoethics (unknown until now but becoming very interesting) as well as for new knowledge of arts character and of the regional geography. I am full of respect and admiration of the creative energy, large fields of interest, warmth and cordiality you both are giving to your guests.

Joining the expression of my estimation and regards,

Henryk CZUBAŁA (Poland)

(translated from the Polish original)

Dear Dr. Nemec:

First of all I want to congratulate Dr. Nemcova and you on the great success of the meetings in Prague and Příbram. My wife and I took great pleasure in participating and I hope that we will have many more opportunities to continue our work.

Thank you very much, too, for preparing and sending the report and the declaration. Needless to say that I completely agree with the recommendations of the declaration.

Thank you very much again and best regards!

F. L. WILKE (Germany)



THE 34th INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

August 5 – 10, 2012; Brisbane, Australia
<http://www.34igc.org>

The Third Circular has been released and is posted on the IGC.
Download at http://www.34igc.org/FileLibrary/34igc_third_circular_v5.pdf

GEOETHICS AT THE 34TH IGC – BRISBANE:

SYMPOSIUM Nr. 5 within the Theme 2

Theme 2: Geoscience Benefiting Low Income Countries

[Association of Geoscientists for International Development, AGID]

Coordinators: Mike KATZ m.katz@unsw.edu.au (Australia), Shrikant LIMAYE (India), Afia AKHTAR (Bangladesh) and Antony REEDMAN (UK)

This Theme recognises the importance of creating social awareness and capacity building in low income countries, in relation to groundwater management and rural health; geohazards; climate change; medical geology for human survival and welfare; geoplanning for urban development and infrastructure; role of geosciences in protecting ecosystems; geoethics; role of women geoscientists in resource development; construction and industrial minerals; production of mineral and energy resources.

Symposia:

2.5 Geoethics

Vaclav NEMEC lidmila.nemcova@quick.cz (Czech Republic), Jesus MARTINEZ-FRIAS (Spain), Nataliya NIKITINA (Russia), Niichi NISHIWAKI (Japan) and Silvia PEPPOLONI (Italy)

Abstracts are invited on the theory and practice of geoethics, which recognizes the necessity of an ethical attitude to the geosphere and of finding ways to solve ethical dilemmas primarily in connection with natural hazards (including risk of unavoidable disasters), sustainable use of Earth resources and space exploration. Education is essential for facilitating responsible decision-making based on integration of moral and cultural values with social, environmental, technical and economic considerations.

Keynote speaker: Vaclav NEMEC (Czech Republic)

WORKSHOP 14:

DATE	Sunday 5 th August 2012, perhaps continuing Monday 6 th August (evening)
TITLE	IMPORTANCE OF GEOETHICS
LOCATION	CONGRESS VENUE
ORGANISERS	AGID - working group for geoethics
PRESENTERS	<p>Dr Vaclav Nemec (Czech republic) - VP of Association of Geoscientists for International Development & Head of AGID working group for geoethics.)</p> <p>Professor Ochir Gerel (Mongolia) Vice_President of the IUGS</p> <p>Professor Jesus Martinez-Frias (Spain) – Chair of the IUGS/COGE</p> <p>Dr Satoshi Murao (Japan) - Geo-risk Research Group, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology</p> <p>Prof. Lidmila Nemcova (Czech republic) - President, Czech Society for Ethics in Economics</p> <p>Professor Niichi Nishiwaki (Japan) – President, Japan Society of Geoinformatics</p> <p>Professor Haiqiao Tan (PR of China) - Geographical Society of China</p>
SUMMARY	Geoethics as a discipline at the intersection of geosciences and ethics can serve as a universal means of achieving progress towards a more sustainable world. It involves a new way of thinking in relation to understanding unavoidable Earth and planetary processes (such as the devastating earthquakes and tsunamis), global sustainability and future trends. The short course and workshop will cover the importance of education at all levels, sound legislative processes and governance, appropriate measures for minimizing losses and damages, effective monitoring systems, responsible production of natural resources, corporate social responsibility, international solidarity, etc. Participants will be invited to discuss their own experiences and make suggestions.
CONTACT	Dr Vaclav Nemec Email: lidmila.nemcova@quick.cz
numbers	10-60
TOTAL FEE ADVISED Including GST	\$ no cost

WORKSHOP 25

DATE	Saturday 11 th August 2012.
TITLE	GEOETHICAL DECISION - MAKING
LOCATION	Venue to be confirmed (probably Heritage Room Marquee Hotel 103 George St Brisbane)
ORGANISERS	AGID - working group for geoethics
PRESENTERS	Dr Vaclav Nemec (VP of Association of Geoscientists for International Development & Head of AGID working group for geoethics.) Professor Lidmila Nemcova (President Czech Society for Ethics in Economics)
SUMMARY	Geoethics as a discipline at the intersection of geosciences and ethics can serve as a universal means of achieving progress towards a more sustainable world. It involves a new way of thinking in relation to understanding unavoidable Earth and planetary processes (such as the devastating earthquakes and tsunamis), global sustainability and future trends. The short course and workshop will cover special problems for leaders in mineral industry, top representatives of public authorities and administration, insurance companies etc. , needed for their appropriate geoethical decision making and fruitful contacts with geoscientists.
CONTACT	Dr Vaclav Nemec Email: lidmila.nemcova@quick.cz
numbers	8 – 15
TOTAL FEE ADVISED Including GST	\$ 548.90

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OTHER NEWS

Useful websites

Many other useful information on geoethics can be found at the usual **website of the AGID National Chapter in Spain** (see p. 1) giving information about meetings on geoethics already realized (**Moscow 2011, GEOITALIA 2011**) or in preparation. Useful information can be followed also at the **IUGS website** (www.iugs.org including links to **IUGS E-Bulletin, Episodes** etc.) or **AGID website**: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/agid/> including Publications with the **latest edition of the Geoscience Newsletter**. A hyperlink has been established for the IUGS Commission on Geo-science Education, Training and Technology Transfer (<http://www.iugscoge.com/>).



The regular biannual congress of Italian geologists took place in Torino, September 19-23, 2011. Its orientation has been described at the respective web pages as follows:

Earth Sciences for sustainable development

The 8th edition of the Italian Forum of Earth Sciences, September 2011, singles out sustainability as its main theme, thus highlighting the key role of the geosciences with respect to important topics for the present and, in particular, for the future of our society. Resources and energy, climate, water, infrastructures, mobility, natural hazard impact reduction, new materials, cultural heritage protection and conservation are all aspects of interest both for basic and applied research, within subjects that go from the Earth interior up to the atmosphere limit.

Public opinion is growing more aware of the critical issues that our society will have to face in the environmental field: unfortunately, neither the perception of virtuous behaviours, nor their adoption keep pace with the increasing awareness. This gap is common at various levels, from politicians to ordinary citizens, it has multiple and complex reasons sometimes dramatically highlighted by the effects of the improper use of the land. Admittedly, it is necessary to improve the information about the role that geosciences can play in offering most of the answers to the critical questions, providing the decision makers with the tools they need to face the most daunting challenges: infrastructures safety, water, energy supply or environmental protection.

A brief report about the special session “GEOETHICS AND GEOLOGICAL CULTURE: the contribution of Earth Sciences to a cultural renewal of society” by the convenor Dr. Silvia Peppoloni is published at the web page

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

The Italian geologists have been interested in problems of philosophy since many years, in 2009 they covered their problems for the first time under the title of GEOETHICS. The increasing interest is evident from the fact that the time given for this session now was 3 times larger than in 2009 (i.e. 3 half-days). The session started with a very interesting interview of Dr. Peppoloni to the famous sociologist Prof. Ferrarotti (Univ. of Rome) and continued with an introductory talk by an unexpected guest - Dr. Ian Lambert, the Secretary General of the 34th International Geological Congress, who visited the Congress on his European tour. There were 2 keynotes (in video), 4 invited lectures, 35 speakers in total. Altogether more than 50 persons were present. The session hosted two speakers from the Russian Federation: Liudmila Ryzhova (who was in 1992 among the first visitors of the first international meeting on Geoethics at Příbram) and Dr Nataliya Nikitina (head of the Geoethical Section within the Russian Geological Society). Regarding the proposed "Oath for Geoscientists", similar to the 'Hippocratic Oath' for doctors (to be recited at the graduation ceremony of taking a Degree in Geosciences), the things are not yet finalized.

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Contacts:

Dr. Němec and his wife Dr. Lidmila Němcová: LIDMILA.NEMCOVA@QUICK.CZ; in emergency cases when a direct approach to the previous e-mail address fails: DOLEZALOVA@DIAMO.CZ (DIAMO library at Příbram – this e-mail is also used by Dr. Němec when he is occasionally working at Příbram); another emergency e-mail address: MARCINIKOVA@DIAMO.CZ (The Mining Příbram Symposium Secretary).

Editor of the GEOETHICS NEWS: Dr. Václav Němec