

GEOETHICS NEWS

MARCH 2012

On behalf of the AGID Working Group for Geoethics and as
Convenors of the International Conference on Geoethics
(Příbram 2013) we send you our best wishes of

HAPPY EASTER

Sincerely yours,

Václav Němec, AGID vice-president, and **Lidmila Němcová**

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Basic information:

The complete set of GEOETHICS NEWS (published since 2007) as well as other interesting useful news and information about various events in the field of GEOETHICS all over the world are available at the web page of the AGID National Chapter in Spain: [http://tierra.rediris.es/Geoethics Planetary Protection/](http://tierra.rediris.es/Geoethics_Planetary_Protection/).

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AGID NEWS

*Because of expecting a larger circle of readers the following text is
being reproduced from GEOETHICS NEWS – June 2012*

**The Association of Geoscientists for International
Development and Geoethics: Past, Present and Future**
A.J. Reedman (Secretary General/Treasurer, AGID)

The Association of Geoscientists for International Development (AGID) was founded in 1974 by a small group of geologists involved in international development projects and eager to promote the wider application of the geosciences in such projects. Its prime objectives were:

- a) To encourage communication between all individuals, societies, agencies and corporations interested in the application of the geosciences to international development;
- b) To encourage and promote activities in geosciences fields which are related to the needs of developing countries;
- c) To promote and encourage among earth scientists an awareness of their responsible role in the management of natural resources;
- d) To emphasise to countries cooperating in international geoscientific aid, the fundamental role of the geosciences in social and economic development.

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In subsequent years in pursuit of these objectives, AGID's programme of activities included the organisation of conferences, seminars, courses and workshops relevant to the role of earth scientists in international development and to the application of the geosciences to the solution of problems of the developing countries. Its record in facilitating and carrying out such activities was impressive; in the ten years between 1984 and 1994, for example, AGID was involved in 150 different projects in 25 developing countries whilst 24 activities, mainly conferences, workshops and seminars, were also organised in a range of developed countries. During the same period over one hundred postgraduate students in developing country universities had received grants from AGID to support fieldwork in connection with their studies. From 1974 a total of eighty-five editions of the journal „AGID News’ (later *Geoscience and Development*) were published until publication ceased in 2005. Much of this was made possible by an annual grant to AGID of \$100.000 by the Canadian International Development Administration (CIDA) which continued for twenty-one years until it ended in 1996.

At the time of the foundation of the Association, there could be no specific reference to “geoethics” as this was a term which only appeared, and was defined, many years later. However, though it might reasonably be expected that all professional personnel would behave „ethically“, it was nevertheless one of the objectives of AGID, as quoted above, “to promote and encourage among earth scientists an awareness of their responsible role in the management of natural resources”. This stated aim foreshadowed many subsequent debates in geological circles on, for example, the sustainability of mining projects in the development aid business as most mineral resources were non-renewable and therefore, by definition, had finite sustainability. Several early articles in AGID News pointed out the environmental damage that could result from mining development and stressed that these environmental costs should be offset against the short term financial gain, an early expression of the “green economics” that was to become more popular several decades later. Geohazards, and how to mitigate their effects on local populations also provoked much concern and stimulated many articles in AGID News as well as relevant workshops and discussions, with the focus on particularly vulnerable communities in the low-income „third world“. All this could be seen as broadly overlapping with the as yet undefined field of “geoethics” and practice of geoethical behaviour.

Now time has moved on, and though AGID no longer enjoys the luxury of the CIDA grant and consequently has had to greatly reduce its project activity, the AGID Working Group on Geoethics founded by Dr Němec, based on his pioneering work on the topic through the Mining Příbram Symposia strengthened AGID's agenda in an entirely appropriate way. AGID is now a decentralised organisation with national groups organising their own programmes, membership lists and fund raising and their awareness of geoethical issues can now be raised through **Geoethics News** produced by Dr Němec.

The successful symposia on geoethics at successive International Geological Congresses and the forthcoming symposium and workshops at the 34th IGC in Brisbane continue to further expose the topic to the world geoscientists. How this process can be extended and strengthened, perhaps through IUGS, deserves further serious consideration and discussion.

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**Important meetings of AGID to be held
in the framework of the 34th IGC in Brisbane
(both at Congress venue):**

AGID Working Group for Geoethics:
meeting planned for **August 7, 2012 at 19.00;**

AGID General Assembly:
planned for **August 9, 2012 at 19.00.**



THE 34th INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

August 5 – 10, 2012

Brisbane, Australia

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

Direct access to the registration (information and on-line procedure):

<http://www.34igc.org/congress-registration.php>

ATTENTION: Early bird registration – obligatory for all presenters - will close on April 30, 2012!

GEOETHICS AT THE 34TH IGC

will consist of 1 Symposium, 2 Professional Development Workshops and the business meeting of the AGID Working Group for Geoethics. A special presentation of geoethics has been prepared for the Symposium 1.2 (Geoscience education).

SYMPOSIUM Nr. 2.4 – GEOETHICS

(THEME 02: Geoscience Benefiting Low Income Countries - organized by AGID)

The number of the symposium has been changed (originally 2.5)

Convenors: Václav NĚMEC (Czech Republic) – lead convenor
Jesus MARTINEZ - FRÍAS (Spain),
Nataliya NIKITINA (Russia),
Niichi NISHIWAKI (Japan) and
Silvia PEPPOLONI (Italy)

The convenors team has accepted a set of 21 contributions (see p. 4) with the following status:

9 keynote presentations (KN),

3 invited presentations (INV),

5 oral presentations,

4 posters (among them 1 oral presentation on waiting list).

This set makes it possible to arrange a series of 3 more specialized 2 hour sessions. The final time-table will be announced probably in May 2012.

SYMPOSIUM 2.4: GEOETHICS

List of submitted abstracts accepted by the convenors:

Arun D. AHLUWALIA (India): My experiments in Earth and environment science outreach – a geoethical crusade for informal education **KN**

Jennifer Joi FIELD, Joe REMENY (Australia): Ethical investments in mining and gas developments in low income countries and communities, including Australia **INV**

Ochir GEREL (Mongolia): Mining, environment and geoethical problems in Mongolia **KN**

Azim IBROHIM, Rakhmonbek BAKHDAVLATOV, Sharifa KHUDOBAKHSHEVA, Vladislav MINAEV (Tajikistan): Geological information as a guard of economic and ecological sustainability of Central Asian developing mountain countries **Oral**

Jesus MARTINEZ-FRIAS, Jose Luis GONZALEZ, Fernando RULL (Spain): Geoethics in Spain: a potential model for deontological links, new applications in Earth and Space Sciences and network-based geoeeducation and public outreach **KN**

Ruggero MATTEUCCI, Guido GOSSO, Silvia PEPOLONI, Sandra PIACENTE, Janusz WASOWSKI (Italy): A Hippocratic-like oath for geoscientists to foster their ethical responsibility **Oral**

Satoshi MURAO (Japan): A promising practice in geoethics: "ethical jewellery" and its significance in the geological and global community **INV**

Satoshi MURAO, Ari NAKANO (Japan): Government versus governance for mineral development: a case study on the bauxite issue in Vietnam **Poster**

Lidmila NĚMCOVÁ (Czech Republic): Necessity of developing ethical way of thinking as the presumption of professionalism **KN**

Vaclav NĚMEC (Czech Republic): Review of actual problems of the further development of geoethics **KN**

Vaclav NĚMEC, Lidmila NĚMCOVÁ (Czech Republic), **Antony REEDMAN** (UK): Geoethics - past, present and future **Poster**

Nataliya NIKITINA (Russia): Theory of justice in subsurface use **KN**

Niichi NISHIWAKI (Japan): Geoethical importance of information management before/after natural hazards **KN**

Tokio OHSKA (Japan): Geoethical implications of the Fukushima nuclear accident **INV**

Silvia PEPOLONI (Italy): Socio-cultural role of the geoscientists and their ethical responsibility **KN**

Erika M. REY – SATURAY (Philippines), **Satoshi MURAO** (Japan): Culture of the informal mining sector and its implications on the applicability of ethical jewelry: key consideration points from the case of Paracale, Camarines Norte, Philippines **Poster**

George STONE (USA): Climate change mitigation: international imperative and geoscience responsibility **Oral**

Haiqiao TAN, Lifang XUE (P. R. China): Geoethical implications of taoism for sustainable development **Oral**

Haiqiao TAN, Lifang XUE (P. R. China): Geoethical concepts for water system planning in urban areas needed **KN**

Georgi YURGENSON (Russia): Geoethical and geoeological problems of geotechnogenesis in historical mining provinces **Oral**

Marga ZANGO-PASCUAL (Spain): Why should a human rights approach be taken to the management of natural disaster risk reduction? Development and current status of the issue **Poster/oral on waiting list**

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP 13

IMPORTANCE OF GEOETHICS

Sunday 5th August, perhaps continuing **Monday 6th August (evening)**
30 – 60 participants, **no charge for delegates to the IGC**

LOCATION: CONGRESS VENUE

The workshop will cover the importance of education for geoethics at all levels, sound legislative processes and governance, appropriate measures for minimizing losses and damages (incl. 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.** Preliminary announcement of problems for discussion to Dr. Václav Němec will be highly appreciated. Contact: lidmila.nemcova@quick.cz

PRESENTERS

Dr **Václav Němec** (Czech Republic) - VP of Association of Geoscientists for International Development & Head of AGID Working Group for Geoethics)

Professor **Ochir Gerel** (Mongolia) - Vice-President of the IUGS.

Professor **Jesus Martinez-Frias** (Spain) - Chair of the IUGS/COGE.

Dr **Satoshi Murao** (Japan) - Geo-risk Research Group, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology

Professor **Lidmila Němcová** (Czech Republic) - President, Czech Society for Ethics in Economics

Professor **Niichi Nishiwaki** (Japan) – President, Japanese Society of Geoinformatics.

Professor **Haiqiao Tan** (PR of China) - Geographical Society of China

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP 23

GEOETHICAL DECISION – MAKING

Saturday 11th August, 8-15 participants; **total fee \$545** (includes Catering and GST)

LOCATION: GEORGE PATERSON HOTEL 325 George St Brisbane

This 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.

For additional information ask **Václav NĚMEC** (lidmila.nemcova@quick.cz)

PRESENTERS

Dr **Václav Němec** (Czech Republic) - VP of Association of Geoscientists for International Development & Head of AGID Working Group for Geoethics

Professor **Lidmila Němcová** (Czech Republic) – President, Czech Society for Ethics in Economics

GEOETHICAL REMARKS TO RIO+20

On March 15 I took part in a seminar in Prague organized by the group preparing official documents of the Czech Republic for the RIO + 20 top summit to be held **June 20-22** in Rio de Janeiro. Acquainted to some extent with the abundant materials I feel that in the final declaration to be approved by the summit it will be necessary to emphasize the role of Earth and Space sciences for any further progress - presently this role seems to be rather underestimated (if not completely omitted) in the complex of social, economic and environmental points of view. I had the possibility to take part in the discussion and edited my remarks in the text (see p. 7) from the view of geoethics.

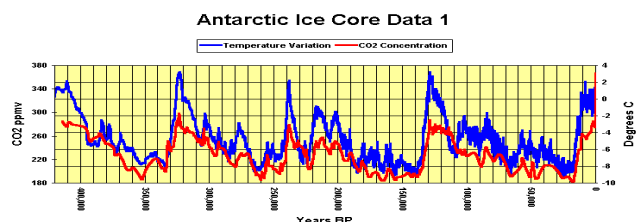
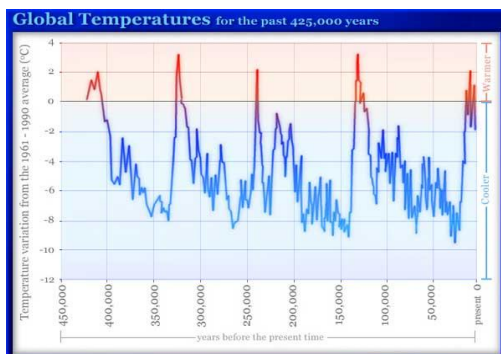
After consulting the problem with the IUGS Vice-president Prof. Ochir Gerel (see below) and in accordance with her recommendation I took the liberty to send the suggestions (unless some steps have been already arranged by the IUGS) to the IUGS President Prof. A. Riccardi and to several top representatives of other international bodies.

The suggestions are as follows:

- a) to respect Earth and planetary sciences as an unavoidable part of any further progress which should be considered together with the existing social, economic and environmental pillars;
- b) to establish for the future a needed major group with the minimum of 1 million of supporters from various countries of the world (probably in co-operation with the top representatives of the mining world); such a major group would be authorized to influence any further progress;
- c) to initiate appropriate additional discussions to the Rio + 20 in the course of the coming IGC in Brisbane.

Václav NĚMEC

Excerpt from the e-mail from Profesor Ochir Gerel, IUGS Vice-President: *I have read very carefully your suggestions. They are very important and well presented. From my own part I support them. The discipline of geoethics during last 20 years has made a successful progress, it is recognized and applied in many countries. The Geological Society of Mongolia is interested and ready to support.* (Translation from the Czech language.)



The existence of global warming in the past 450 000 years as presented at the 33rd IGC in Oslo (see also the conclusion of that Congress at p. 7).

THE VIEW OF GEOETHICS ON RIO+20

Václav NĚMEC

The new scientific discipline of GEOETHICS, in the course of development during the last 20 years, has made considerable progress. The originally preferred problems of protecting and moderating consumption of non renewable mineral resources of the Earth have been replaced by priorities concerned with unavoidable natural disasters and hazards in connection with their presently increasing intensity. These events need to focus the actual attention and orientation of responsible activities of Earth scientists because of possibilities for both forecasting and suggesting appropriate measures for minimizing expected damage. It is necessary for human kind, as well as for any further progress of its scientific background, to bring into consideration the necessity of deepening contacts of the Earth sciences with other technical and humanistic scientific fields. Geoethics may have an important role in this process as well as in introducing other new scientific domains (futurology etc.).

Also in the broader society, at responsible levels of state authorities and self-government as well as in any context of international co-operation, geoethics might be able to help in paving a better way for the needed understanding of nature by humankind. The future of our planet is determined not only by anthropogenic influences but also by unavoidable long term exogenous and endogenous natural processes, often with some hierarchical periodicity of significant change, usually accompanied by unavoidable natural disasters beyond any human control. The most significant of these events are often beyond the reach of human memory. Only Earth and Space sciences are able to serve as mediators for any research needed in detecting the character and predictability of such phenomena. Let us remember the conclusion of the International Geological Congress in Oslo (2008): **Planet Earth has a superb archive of past climates which documents great climate variability throughout Earth's history. Today's changes should be seen in the context of these billions of years of natural change.** In the light of this knowledge, it seems necessary to modify the mostly oversimplified ideas about the environment sustainability. Every citizen of the planet needs to comprehend that the so-called 'abiotic nature' also has its own dynamic evolution and that the respective appropriate regularities and laws need to be subjected to research in order to improve any forecasting of the more important catastrophes which might be expected and the appropriate precautionary measures.

It is also necessary to find appropriate structures which would make it possible to incorporate geoethical principles in the optimal way into the consciousness and the daily life of the whole of global society. All efforts of not only Earth scientists, ecologists and pedagogues but also of managers, leaders, politicians and statesmen at any level should respect – in the sense of geoethics – their own responsibility for the fate of our planet and of all its inhabitants including our future generations.

As to the final social, economic and environmental consequences it is necessary to seek new priorities emphasizing more and more the solidarity of human kind at all possible levels. The needed geoethical way of thinking should be based on generally accepted moral and ethical principles achieved by mankind by various ways and experiences (in spite of some current contrary trends).



THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GEOETHICS 2013

Accordingly to the decision of the Final Declaration from the international section on GEOETHICS hosted by the Mining Příbram Symposium in 2011 the following meeting is planned for the term

**October 14 (Monday) to 18 (Friday) 2013
at Příbram (Czech Republic).**

Further information will be given later. Thanks for expressing your potential interest in the questionnaire at the page 9.

Because of expected larger circles of readers the following text is being refreshed from GEOETHICS NEWS—June 2012

The city of **Příbram** - 60 km SW from Prague - is the centre of a region with a long mining history and tradition going back to the 13-th century. The Mining Příbram symposia have been organised here since 1962, therefore the 2011 Symposium was the 50th jubilee one. Since 1968 until 1999 altogether 19 regular international sessions of MATHEMATICAL GEOLOGY took place here, mostly co-sponsored by the International Association for Mathematical Geology (borne in Prague in August 1968). For two decades this special section served as the only place in the world where promoters and specialists of this new topic from East and West had a possibility to meet regularly; the team of convenors was headed by Dr. Václav Němec. The long tradition of these international meetings made it possible to open in 1992 – for the first time in the world – a new series of a specialised international section on **geoethics - application of ethics in the fields of Earth sciences**. All contributions to geoethics at this forum in the period 1992 – 2011 - written by **authors from 30 countries** - have reached the number **287**.

Many visitors know the specific character of geoethical sessions at the Mining Příbram Symposia with a disposable time for listening to presentations as well as for discussions in the course of coffee breaks and anywhere. The time table makes it possible to use a tailor made plan of an individual sojourn. Some visitors limit their stay for the most important 2 – 3 days of lectures, some extend their stay for weekend visit(s) to beautiful Prague or other interesting localities more distant from Příbram. A festive evening remembering old mining traditions as well as the planned excursion in spectacular countryside with beautiful Autumn colours usually bring unforgettable impressions.

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Contacts:

Convenors **Dr. Václav Němec** and his wife **Dr. Lidmila Němcová** (in Prague):
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);

another emergency e-mail address: MARCINIKOVA@DIAMO.CZ (the Mining Příbram Symposium Secretary).

Editor of the GEOETHICS NEWS: Dr. Václav Němec

QUESTIONNAIRE

of the 34th INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

August 2012 – Brisbane, Australia

***Be so kind to send this completed form with deleted inappropriate answers as soon as possible to
LIDMILA.NEMCOVA@QUICK.CZ (in case of difficulties - see Contacts at p. 8).***

Personal data:

Name:

Address:

E-mail:

Phone Nr. (incl. country and city codes):

Registration (x – inappropriate indications to be deleted):

X ALREADY REGISTERED X BEFORE APRIL 30 X PLANNED LATER

I am planning to attend (*x – inappropriate indications to be deleted*):

a) SYMPOSIUM Nr. 2.4: **GEOETHICS** x YES x NO

b) WORKSHOP 13: **IMPORTANCE OF GEOETHICS** x YES x NO

Possible topics for discussion:

c) WORKSHOP 23: **GEOETHICAL DECISION - MAKING** x YES x NO

Possible topics for discussion:

d) Meeting of the AGID Working Group for Geoethics	x	YES	x	NO
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e) AGID General Assembly		x YES	x NO
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f) Other priority duties in Brisbane x YES x NO

Special wishes, remarks, suggestions, reports etc. can be added