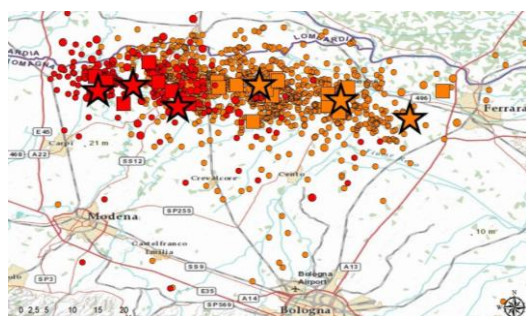


# GEOETHICS NEWS

JUNE 2012

## Challenges continue...

### Repeated earthquakes in Italy and Peru



Magnitude 6.0 earthquake - southern Peru  
May 14 and June 7



Seismic situation in the Po valley  
May 19 and 30, 2012

\* \* \*

## Basic information:

The main attention of all readers should be focussed to the approaching 34th International Geological Congress and information about presentation of GEOETHICS.

**The registrants interested to take part especially in the Professional Development Workshop 13 are kindly asked to send the questionnaire (p. 7) prior to July 15; in such a case their responses can influence the final content and time-table of the workshop.**

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/) .

Václav Němec, Head of AGID Working Group for Geoethics

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## Contents:

page

- 1 Challenges continue, Basic Information
- 2 Geoethics at the 34<sup>th</sup> IGC: Symposium 2.4
- 3 - Professional Development Workshop 13
- 4 Geoethical Remarks to Rio+20
- 4 Earth Summit Rio+20 – IUGS Position Statement
- 5 The International Conference on Geoethics 2013
- 6 Questionnaire



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

August 5 – 10, 2012

Brisbane, Australia

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

## GEOETHICS AT THE 34<sup>TH</sup> IGC

**Symposium Nr. 1.2** (Geoscience education) – **TUESDAY AUGUST 7**

Posters oriented on geoethics will be presented at **MEZZANINE LEVEL**:

012: L. NĚMCOVÁ: *Art in the education process – increasing ethical sensibility for the Earth and human kind*

013: V. NĚMEC: *(Geo)education and (geo)ethics*

## SYMPOSIUM Nr. 2.4 – GEOETHICS

**THEME 02: Geoscience Benefiting Low Income Countries** organized by AGID

**WEDNESDAY AUGUST 8 – GeoExpo Hospitality Room 2**

The convenors team coordinated by Václav NĚMEC (Czech Republic) has accepted 21 contributions (see GEOETHICS NEWS – MARCH 2012, p. 4).

Two presentations had to be withdrawn for personal reasons:

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

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

The set makes it possible to arrange a series of 3 sessions with 16 presentations:

1. 8.30 - 10.30: presentations 1974 - 1977
2. 13.00 - 15.00: presentations 2195 - 2200
3. 15.30 - 17.45: presentations 2424 - 2429

Three posters (017 – 019) at the **MEZZANINE LEVEL**.

The organizers of the Congress have taken responsibility for the final distribution of contributions and for chairpersons in all three sessions. Details of the final program appear on the website <http://www.34igc.org/> and in the Fifth Circular.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP 13 - IMPORTANCE OF GEOETHICS (CONGRESS VENUE)**

**SUNDAY AUGUST 5 (THE WHOLE DAY) AND  
MONDAY AUGUST 6 (EVENING)  
No charge for delegates to the IGC**

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.

**This workshop has met with a great interest (at the end of June more than 160 registrations; at least 22 countries represented from all continents; especially large groups from P. R. China, Russia, USA, Australia and India).**

**Participants are invited to discuss their own experiences and make suggestions (see instructions – p. 6 and Questionnaire – page 7). Preliminary announcements of problems (actual geoethical dilemmas as encountered by individual registered participants) will be highly appreciated.**

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

### **PRESENTERS:**

Dr **Václav Němec** (Czech Republic) – VP of Association of Geoscientists for International Development (for Europe) & 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

\* \* \*

**Important meetings of AGID (Congress Venue, verify in the Program):**

### **AGID Working Group for Geoethics:**

meeting planned for **Tuesday August 7 - evening**

### **AGID General Assembly:**

planned for **Thursday August 9 - evening**

\* \* \*

**Professional Development Workshop 23: Geoethical Decision – Making** was intended to cover special problems for leaders in the mineral industry, top representatives of public authorities and administration, insurance companies etc., in their appropriate geoethical decision - making and establishing fruitful contacts with geoscientists; it has been **cancelled because of the lack of interest.**

# GEOETHICAL REMARKS TO RIO+20

As reported in the GEOETHICS NEWS – MARCH 2012, suggestions have been sent to the IUGS President Prof. A. Riccardi and to several top representatives of other international bodies for the IUGS standpoint to the Conference Rio+20.

## **From the AGID Secretary/Treasurers Report (2008 – 2012):**

*Recently Dr. Němec has emphasized to the IUGS its ethical and geoethical duties in liaison with the Rio + 20 summit and various associated green movements where purely geological factors are being constantly underestimated and therefore ideas of sustainability interpreted incorrectly by the omission of long term geological processes far beyond the reach of human memory. These matters were subsequently reflected in the IUGS submission to the UN Rio+20 Summit.*

The final version of the IUGS document for Rio+20 (published in the IUGS E-Bulletin No. 75) is published also here (two remarks about geoethics and the final redaction of the original input of Dr. Němec in red colour):

## **THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (UNCSD)**

### **EARTH SUMMIT RIO+20 POSITION STATEMENT**

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) or Earth Summit Rio+20 to be held from 20 to 22 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, takes place twenty years after the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), where countries adopted Agenda 21, and ten years after the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg.

This Rio+20 summit is a new attempt by the United Nations in this new millennium to bring together governments, international institutions and major groups define pathways to a safer, more equitable, cleaner, greener and more prosperous world for all.

These goals are in agreement with those of the **International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)**, which include: (a) promoting development of the earth sciences through the support of broad-based scientific studies relevant to the entire earth-system, and (b) applying the results of these and other studies to preserving Earth's natural environment, using all natural resources wisely, and improving the prosperity of nations and the quality of human life.

The **International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)** is an international scientific, non-governmental, non-political, and non-profit-making organization, with 121 National Committees representing the international earth sciences community and almost 50 affiliated organizations of world wide scope covering all fields of expertise in the earth sciences, plus several commissions and task groups involved in specific fields, such as geological education training and technology transfer, **geoethics**, management and application of geoscience information, geoscience in environmental management, and standards in geosciences. All these are directly relevant to the two main themes on which Rio+20 will focus the official discussions: a) a green economy in the context of sustainable development, and poverty eradication; and b) the institutional framework for sustainable development.

The future of our planet is determined not only by anthropogenic influences but also by long term exogenous and endogenous natural processes, often accompanied by natural disasters beyond 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 behaviour and predictability of such phenomena. In the light of this knowledge, it seems necessary to modify the mostly oversimplified ideas about the environment sustainability, by an appropriate geoeducation and **by a geoethical approach**. It is necessary to realize that the so-called 'abiotic nature' has its own dynamic evolution and that its regularities and laws need to be known and understood in order to improve any forecasting and mitigation of important catastrophes and climate changes.

It is therefore opportune and necessary for the IUGS to expose its views on the different matters to be considered during the Rio+20 summit. Moreover the seven areas which need priority attention, as highlighted during the preparations for Rio+20, i.e. jobs, energy, cities, food, water, oceans, disasters, are all within the scope of IUGS interest and activities -and have components directly bearing on Earth science knowledge and expertise. The documents resulting from this summit should therefore include provisions, as those outlined below, to promote the geoscientific research and knowledge that is needed to achieve a safer, more equitable, cleaner, greener and more prosperous world for all.

**Green jobs:** The international geological community and the IUGS are committed to promote and increase the creation of green jobs in the Earth sciences world-wide, in agreement with Millennium Development Goal 1. Geological education at the University level has been undergoing important changes to increase the number of professionals working on matters related to environmental issues. At the same time IUGS activities have been focused on promoting Earth science for environmental management and sustainable development, along with Earth science education and capacity building with participation of developed and developing countries, especially through a joint IUGS-UNESCO International Geosciences Programme (IGCP).

**Energy:** Geological knowledge is fundamental to the provision of energy at present and probably for several decades to come, as it comes primarily from fossil sources (oil, gas, coal, methane hydrates, and also uranium). But geological knowledge is also essential for the mitigation of the environmental impacts due to exploration and production, and more substantially, for moving to a lower carbon and finally to a renewable energy system. Renewable energy from water (river and sea) power, geothermal, biomass, carbon capture, as well as underground energy storage are based on conditions studied by geology.

**Sustainable cities:** Urban geological work is essential for city planning, construction, safety and management, including water supply, waste disposal, and improving the resilience of cities to natural disaster risks.

**Food security and sustainable agriculture:** The geosciences are essential for land-resource surveys to establish the location, extent and severity of land degradation and desertification, to prepare and implement programmes leading to the rehabilitation of degraded lands, to the conservation of soil fertility, and to groundwater, and watershed management. All needed for sustainable agricultural development.

**Water:** Geological studies are essential for provision, assessment, protection and sustainable management of water resources, to maintain water quality and aquatic ecosystems. All these elements are necessary to guarantee access to safe drinking water and provision of water for sustainable food production and rural development, as established by Agenda 21, the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

**Oceans:** The geological study of the oceans, focused on the geological structure and topography of the ocean floor and the natural processes that create and modify these features, is essential to many basic tenets of Human environment, such as the study of past climate change for environmental prediction, to understand the impact of benthic habitat on biological communities, and to learn more about how the Earth and its environmental systems function. In addition to the fact that geological studies are essential to the work being carried out by the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

**Disaster readiness:** Geological hazards include internal earth processes, such as earthquakes, volcanic activity and emissions, and other related processes such as tsunamis, mass movements, landslides, rockslides, surface collapses, and debris or mud flows. Therefore, knowledge of geological process or phenomenon that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption or environmental damage is basic for disaster readiness.

Alberto C. Riccardi, President IUGS



## 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 period

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

Further information will be given later. Details about the Symposium history, geographical position etc. described frequently in previous issues of Geoethics News.

\* \* \*

### **Contacts:**

Convenors **Dr. Václav Němec** and his wife **Dr. Lidmila Němcová** (in Prague):  
[LIDMILA.NEMCOVA@QUICK.CZ](mailto:LIDMILA.NEMCOVA@QUICK.CZ) ;

in emergency cases when a direct approach to the previous e-mail address fails:  
[DOLEZALOVA@DIAMO.CZ](mailto:DOLEZALOVA@DIAMO.CZ) (DIAMO library at Příbram);

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

**Editor of the GEOETHICS NEWS: Dr. Václav Němec**

### **ATTENTION!**

#### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE QUESTIONNAIRE:**

The following questionnaire is to be sent with your completed data and possible topics suggested for discussion (actual geoethical dilemmas) in the Professional Development Workshop Nr. 13 **PRIOR TO JULY 15** with deleted inappropriate answers to the addresses:

[LIDMILA.NEMCOVA@QUICK.CZ](mailto:LIDMILA.NEMCOVA@QUICK.CZ); [DOLEZALOVA@DIAMO.CZ](mailto:DOLEZALOVA@DIAMO.CZ).

This will make it possible to prepare a scenario and time-table focussing the content to the most actual and interesting topics.



# QUESTIONNAIRE

## Personal data:

Name:

Address:

E-mail:

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

## **THE 34<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS** **August 2012 – Brisbane, Australia**

I am planning to attend:

### **WORKSHOP Nr. 13: IMPORTANCE OF GEOETHICS**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| a) for Sunday <b>August 5</b> in the morning | <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| b) for Sunday August 5 in the afternoon      | <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| c) for Monday <b>August 6</b> in the evening | <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO |

### **Possible topics for discussion:**

### **Meeting of the AGID Working Group for Geoethics**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Tuesday <b>August 7</b> in the evening | <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
|--|--|

### **SYMPOSIUM Nr. 2.4: GEOETHICS**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| a) Wednesday <b>August 8</b> – session 1, 8.30 - 10.30 | <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| b) Wednesday August 8 – session 2, 13.00 - 15.00       | <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| c) Wednesday August 8 – session 3, 15.30 – 17.30       | <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO |

<b>AGID General Assembly:</b> Thursday <b>August 9</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
--	--

<b>NO TIME TO ATTEND</b> because of other duties in Brisbane	<input type="checkbox"/> YES
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***Special wishes, remarks, suggestions, reports etc. can be added in a separate list***

