

GEOETHICS NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2012

Introduction:

The main attention of all our readers will be focussed to the results of the 34th International Geological Congress with regard to the presentation and future development of GEOETHICS.

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/).



Details about an important event :

**International Association
for Geoethics**

founded

<http://tierra.rediris.es/IAGETH>

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THE 34th INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

August 5 – 10, 2012

Brisbane, Australia

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

GEOETHICS AT THE 34TH IGC DAY AFTER DAY:

SUNDAY AUGUST 5

(THE WHOLE DAY) AND MONDAY AUGUST 6 (EVENING):

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP 13:

IMPORTANCE OF GEOETHICS

All 3 planned sessions realized with altogether 40 participants from 17 countries covering all continents (except Antarctica). About 10 people expressed by e-mails excuses for being unable to take part because of other concurring obligations; many other pre-registered participants were unable to appear because of other concurring duties. Very good response and positive references make it clear that the original scope of disseminating basic ideas of a new discipline has been achieved (especially when a part of participants was unable to attend further meetings on geoethics because of other personal scientific priorities).

MAIN PRESENTERS prepared both general and specified reviews of geoethics:

Václav Němec (Czech Republic): *Introductory review for all 3 sessions*

Jesus Martinez-Frias (Spain): *From basic geoeducational subjects to the multidisciplinary role of geoscientists*

Lidmila Němcová (Czech Republic): *Geoethical reflections and experiences of other applied ethics*

Niichi Nishiwaki (Japan): *Verification of geosciences information from geoethical view points*

Haiqiao Tan (PR of China): *Geoethical consideration about Beijing flood*

FURTHER PRESENTERS introduced their own experiences and impressions:

Shrikant Limaye (India): *Relations cement industry – farming community in high and low rainfall situations in India*

Vladislav Minaev (Tajikistan): *High mountains as laboratory to learn influence of natural factors to populations at present and for the future*

Natalya Nikitina (Russia): *Geoethics in Russia*

Tokio Ohsaka (Japan): *Why Geoethics – what should really be talked about now*

George Stone (USA): *Climate and geoethics*

Comments from other participants

MONDAY AUGUST 6:

Opening of the Congress

The IUGS President Alberto Riccardi in his inaugural speech at the opening ceremony of the Congress repeated ideas from the text about geological factors and sustainability used for the IUGS Statement to Rio+20 (see below, further comment in the previous *Geoethics News – June 2012*).



*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.*

MONDAY AUGUST 6 (EVENING):

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP 13: IMPORTANCE OF GEOETHICS (3rd session)

TUESDAY AUGUST 7:

SYMPOSIUM Nr. 1.2 - GEOSCIENCE EDUCATION

Two posters oriented on geoethics were presented:

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

AGID Working Group for Geoethics (Tuesday August 7 – evening)

As pre-advertised in previous correspondence of Dr. Nemec with the AGID Secretary/Treasurer Dr. Anthony Reedman the AGID Working Group for Geoethics finally unanimously approved the decision to establish the new independent **INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR GEOETHICS**. The importance of this step is evident, see the document prepared and signed in the following days by 7 persons from 6 countries below at page 11. At various occasions IGC delegates of various other countries expressed their preparedness to join the new association.

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 8

SYMPOSIUM Nr. 2.4 – GEOETHICS

The convenors team has accepted 21 contributions (see *GEOETHICS NEWS – MARCH 2012*, p. 4). Two presentations had to be withdrawn for personal reasons: Arun D. Ahluwalia (India), Georgi Yurgenson (Russia). Altogether 16 oral presentations were planned fulfilling all three sessions for the all-day capacity. Invited speakers Jennifer Joi Field (Australia) and Satoshi Murao (Japan) were unable to come. Because Dr. Murao was co-author of 2 posters, only one informative poster was presented (see p. 7).

The set made it possible to arrange **14 oral presentations in 3 sessions**:

2.4 - Session 1 – Geoethics (08.30 – 10.30)

Time

0830 #1974 *Review of actual problems of the further development of geoethics*

Vaclav Nemec (Keynote)

0900 #1975 *Geoethics in Spain: a potential model for deontological links, new applications in Earth and Space Sciences and network-based geoeducation and public outreach*

Jesus Martinez-Frias (Keynote)

0930 #1976 *Necessity of developing ethical way of thinking as the presumption of professionalism*

Lidmila Nemcova (Keynote)

1000 #1977 *Socio-cultural role of the geoscientists and their ethical responsibility*

Silvia Peppoloni (Keynote)

2.4 - Session 2 – Geoethics (13.00 – 15.00)

Time

1300 #2195 *Mining, environment and geoethical problems in Mongolia*

Gerel Ochir (Keynote)

1400 #2198 *Theory of justice in subsurface use*

Nataliya Nikitina (Keynote)

1430 #2199 *Geoethic Implications of Taoism for Sustainable Development*

Haiqiao Tan

1445 #2200 *Why should a human rights approach be taken to the Management of Natural Disaster Risk Reduction? Development and current status of the issue.*

Marga Zango-Pascual

2.4 - Session 3 – Geoethics (15.30 – 17.45)

Time

1530 #2424 *Geoethical importance of information management before/after natural hazards*

Niichi Nishiwaki (Keynote)

1600 #2425 *"Geoethical Implications of the Fukushima Nuclear Accident"*

Tokio Ohsaka (Keynote)

1630 #2426 *Geological information as a guard of economic and ecological sustainability of Central Asian (CA) developing mountain countries.*

Rahmonbek Bakhtdavatov

1645 #2427 *Climate Change Mitigation: International Imperative and Geoscience Responsibility*

George Stone

1700 #2428 *Geoethical concepts for water system planning in urban areas needed*

Haiqiao Tan (Keynote)

1730 #2429 *A Hippocratic-like oath for geoscientists to foster their ethical responsibility*

Silvia Peppoloni

Resumé:

All three sessions were well visited, individual registration of present people was impossible; two speakers were absent (family reasons, illness) in the second session. All presentations were on a high level making it possible to follow a large number of topics covered by geoethics.

The keynote speech of Dr. Silvia Peppoloni in the first session had a controversial character, denying (the existing?) geoethics as a science, criticizing a "slow development" and emphasizing some "danger of a possible lock for the needed research"! At the end she invited all to become members of the new "International Association for Promoting Geoethics" founded by her and her various associates from various countries (with prepared financial funds). After her speech Dr. Nemec made only several modest critical remarks reserving the right to open the appropriate discussion at the AGID General Assembly. As a reaction to the invitation of Dr. Peppoloni to join her IAPG Dr. Nemec announced in the second session of the Symposium the decision of the AGID Working Group from the previous day about founding the independent "International Association for Geoethics" (original idea was to announce it officially at the AGID General Assembly – the need of such a step was already signalized in the report of the AGID Secretary/Treasurer Dr. A. Reedman). Both announcements were repeated at the end of the third session (i.e. after the second oral presentation of Dr. Peppoloni) in presence of both present and past AGID Presidents.

The response to the symposium was very good, the lead co-ordinator of the Theme 2 Mike Katz came several times; he was satisfied by the high level of presentations and great number and interest of people present.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Final exchange of e-mails with Dr. Limaye (one of four co-ordinators of the Theme 2):

From: Dr.Limaye To: Lidmila Nemcova; Jesus Martinez Frias; Nataliya Nikitina; Niichi Nishiwaki; Silvia Peppoloni **Cc:** Antony Reedman; Afia Akhtar; Michael Katz; Ian Lambert; Georg Gibson; Paul Kay; Lynton Jaques; Ochir Gerel;

Sent: Thursday, August 30, 2012 4:44 AM **Subject:** 34th IGC

Dear ALL:

I hope that after a very fruitful and technically rewarding 34th IGC in Brisbane (and may be some touring in Australia afterwards,) we are all settled by now in our daily chores.

I take this opportunity to thank the Conveners and Participants in Symposium 2.4 "Geoethics" for their efforts to make the symposium a grand success, in spite of the earlier difficulties. I am happy that the Symposium 2.4 and the Geoethics Workshop conducted by Dr Nemec, both recorded a very good attendance.

*Kind regards,
Shrikant LIMAYE*

From: Lidmila Nemcova

Sent: Friday, August 31, 2012 1:07 PM

To: Dr. Limaye; Jesus Martinez Frias; Nataliya Nikitina; Niichi Nishiwaki; Silvia Peppoloni; Lidmila NEMCOVA

Cc: Antony Reedman; Afia Akhtar; Michael Katz; Ian Lambert; Georg Gibson; Paul Kay; Lynton Jaques; Ochir Gerel;

Subject: Re: 34th IGC

Dear All,

The recent email from Dr. Limaye gives me the pleasure to express (if not already done in Brisbane) to all top IGC organizers, coordinators of the Theme 2, co-conveners of the Symposium 2.4 and presenters of the PDW 13 my sincere thanks for their positive merits and co-operation.

I feel as my duty to express here also my warm thanks to my wife Lidmila Nemcova for all her personal support and help and considerable contribution to the success of both events in spite of all unexpected difficulties connected with preparing the symposium; she had to bear and share with me many unfortunate effects.

Our German colleagues say: Ende gut - alles gut. Let us hope that the highly positive results of both

events will have the same significant resonance in the future development of Geoethics as the results of previous geoethical inputs to all Congresses since 1992.
With best personal wishes and kind regards,
Vaclav Nemec

From: Dr. Limaye **To:** Lidmila NEMCOVA; Jesus Martinez Frias; Nataliya Nikitina; Niichi Nishiwaki; Silvia Peppoloni; Ian Lambert **Cc:** Antony Reedman; Afia Akhtar; Michael Katz; Ian Lambert; Georg Gibson; Paul Kay; Lynton Jaques; Ochir Gerel; **Sent:** Friday, August 31, 2012 10:07 AM **Subject:** RE: 34th IGC

Dear ALL:

My sincere thanks to Dr Nemec for his e-mail dated 31st August.

I am sorry that in my previous e-mail I forgot to thank Dr. Mrs. Lidmila Nemcova for actively participating in the Geoethics symposium, Geoethics Workshop and the AGID general assembly. We had friendly discussions during the congress and her long experience would always remain a valuable asset to Geoethics and to AGID.

Kind regards,
Shrikant LIMAYE
Past President, AGID

13.08.2012, from Professor Tokio OHSKA:

Dear Drs. Nemec,

I not only enjoyed the conference, but am grateful for the things I learnt from the talks. As I said in the first and the second talk, your starting Geoethics Field is a great thing for which we all have to be very thankful. I will be happy to contribute in anyway I can.

With best regards,

Tokio OHSKA

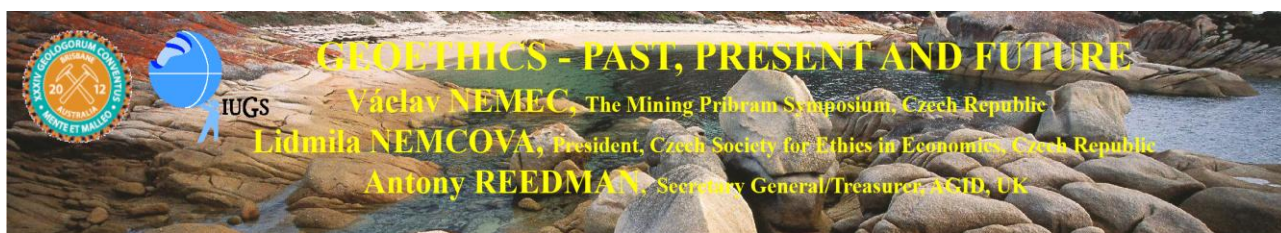
From a "circular e-mail" (10.9.2012): Subject: delayed message re Brisbane and info about Geoethics

..... I appreciated to meet many of you in Brisbane - but usually without any possibility to make some "private" conversation, so many duties in such a "condensed" time. For this reason I had to miss many of you, some among you were finally unable to arrive. To some of you - active participants of the Workshop 13 or symposium 2.4 - I have to express my delayed but sincere thanks for your personal contributions to the success.

... The decision to establish a new Association does not mean to stop further activities of the AGID Working Group. The new Association should recommend establishing some special working groups for geoethics (and ethics) in many associations within the IUGS family (and maybe also in the family of the mining world and elsewhere). Our WG in the framework of AGID can serve as a new model for other associations.

Vaclav Nemec





Significant events in the development of geoethics during the last 20 years include:

- international meetings organized since 1992 usually every second year as part of the Mining Pribram Symposia
Total number of published papers or abstracts in the period 1992 - 2011: 287 (authors from 29 countries)



- regular presentations and symposia at all IGC since 1996:

Nr.	Year	City	Published abstracts on geoethics	Oral presentations	Special symp. on geoethics
29	1992	Kyoto	3	2	none
30	1996	Beijing	5	3+1	21.3.1
31	2000	Rio de Janeiro	10	4+2	26.1
32	2004	Florence	24	7	8.03 + 8.04
33	2008	Oslo	18	11	IEE-07&08
34	2012	Brisbane	19	16	2.4

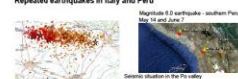


GEOETHICS NEWS

JUNE 2012

Challenges continue...

Repeated earthquakes in Italy and Peru



Basic information:

The main attention of all readers should be focused to the approaching 34th International Geological Congress and information about presentation of GEOETHICS. The reports presented in the past and especially in the Professional Development Workshop 13 are kindly asked to send the questionnaires by 7th July 2012, as such a case that responses can influence the final content and time table of the workshop.

The complete set of GEOETHICS NEWS published since 2007 as well as past information, articles, news and information about national groups in the past of GEOETHICS are available at the web page of the AGID National Chapter in Spain: <http://tierra.rediris.es/Geoethics> (Spanish, English)

Václav Némec, Head of AGID Working Group for Geoethics

Contents:

1. Challenges continue: Basic Information
2. News from the AGID Working Group 2.4
3. Professional Development Workshop 13
4. Questionnaire for the AGID
5. AGID National Chapter - AGID Working Group
6. The International Conference on Geoethics 2013
7. Questionnaire

- formation of the AGID Working Group on Geoethics in 2004

- establishing AGID National Chapters

in Spain (web pages <http://tierra.rediris.es/Geoethics> Planetary Protection/

with all GEOETHICS NEWS issued in the Czech Republic since 2007);

in Russia (web pages <http://www.geoethics.ru/index.html>)

In October 2011 at Pribram the future main trends were agreed in the

INTERNATIONAL DECLARATION ON GEOETHICS :

- 1) To emphasize the significance of geoethics in the context of facing extraordinary natural disasters in recent years.
- 2) To incorporate a geoethical approach to needed new legal aspects (including insurance policy) and to an ethical way of thinking. (See the urgent geoethical problem at the bottom.)
- 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 emphasize the need to search for new priorities for the 3rd Millennium fitting the World Millennium Goals.
- 7) To recommend links for incorporating geoethics into any activity related with the abiotic world.

Nowadays in any professional life an interdisciplinary ethically oriented approach to problems and dilemmas is required; it should be based on consensus and dialogue, non traditional ways of seeking solutions with respect to future generations and adoption of innovative and primarily ethical and strategic ways of thinking.

Though AGID at this time of financial stringency has had to greatly reduce its project activity, the AGID Working Group on Geoethics strengthened AGID's agenda in an entirely appropriate way. AGID is now a decentralized organization with national groups organizing their own programs and funding.

Geoethical problem

The legal aftershocks of the earthquake in L'Aquila, Italy (2009)



Science is in the dock in Italy as local witnesses finally confront the earthquake experts on trial for manslaughter who, it is alleged, failed to warn them of the risks.

Nuns walk past the ruins after the earthquake on April 6, 2009

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GEOETHICS:

October 14-18, 2013 - Příbram (Czech Republic)

Info: lidmila.nemcova@quick.cz

THURSDAY AUGUST 9

AGID General Assembly:

Report prepared by Dr. Nemec as the AGID Vice-president for Europe and head of the AGID Working Group for Geoethics:

The General Assembly had been moved to 17.30 (instead of 20.00 as planned and advertised in the IGC Calendar). This reminded a similar situation in Oslo 2008 where such a shift made it impossible for me and my wife to attend it and to have a possibility to discuss, vote etc. - Finally only about 20 people attended the assembly, no evidence, 2 guests: Dr. Peppoloni and her husband Dr. Di Capua (perhaps invited by Dr. Limaye).

The AGID President Dr. Afia Akhtar presented a good review of general activities of AGID, focussed more on the whole period of AGID existence than on the period since the last previous General Assembly in 2008. Her presentation of AGID Working Group on Geoethics was very objective, except a missing remark about existing important national chapters in Spain and in Russia (with their own active web sites and activities). No word about the AGID future (in a private conversation prior to the General Assembly about the AGID future Dr. Akhtar assured me that AGID would continue with new ideas and topics).

After her speech the assembly was moderated by the Past President Dr. Limaye. He read excerpts from the report of the AGID Secretary/Treasurer Dr. Reedman, but nothing was said about the future or about the dilemma to be reported (to stop any activity or to continue in new conditions).

I criticized this fact - speaking among other officers as Vice-President for Europe and head of the Working Group for Geoethics - still in hope that in the further part of the Assembly the problem of the future would be discussed separately. Therefore I did not mention in my brief remarks the decision of the business meeting of our Working Group for Geoethics to establish an independent International Association for Geoethics (what had been announced officially in the second session of the Symposium 2.4 the previous day). As pre-advertised I made a general remark about all confusions what made the preparation process of the Symposium 2.4 so difficult. Appreciating the fact of an excuse of Dr. Limaye I mentioned that unfortunately this excuse had been not yet addressed to several people where his previous e-mails and letters caused a great personal damage to me. Not any reply from Dr. Limaye who continued to my astonishment by suggesting only a simple change of the AGID statutes making it possible to continue in all functions for the new term. When this adopted, he asked individually all present officers if they agree to continue - after my consent he expressed his thanks for my decision.

Only a few discussion inputs at the end: Lidmila Nemcova emphasized the necessity to clearly define competences of all officers in a needed new version of AGID statutes. Because of the limited time disposable for the session in that room, the Assembly was officially closed.

Let me summarize from my personal standpoint the basic GA shortcomings:

- a) Not any evidence of present AGID members;
- b) Not any presentation of any vision of further activities;
- c) Continuing "provisory" character for the THIRD term (since 2004);
- d) Not any step toward needed deep changes in the AGID Statutes and by-laws;
- e) Not any pre-information of the large AGID membership (by correspondence).

In spite of a great personal disappointment (because of continuing in a provisory situation) I am not against any appropriate further activities of AGID when they will be really assured. We can perhaps take into view the perspective of the IGC 2020 finally given to India!

And a constructive suggestion of the re-elected AGID Vice-president for Europe: in October 2013 in Pribram together with the International Conference of Geoethics a special international section of the Mining Pribram symposium to some problems of interest of AGID (other than geoethics) can be organized (in my opinion: *Natural hazard assessment and mitigation*).

AGID Working Group for Geoethics (Thursday August 9 – evening)

The original intention of a special session for invited people (explaining only numerous confusions and difficulties encountered in the course of preparing the Symposium 2.4) had no more any sense as well as a meeting focussed on preparing the final standpoint of geoethicists for the AGID General Assembly. On the other hand it was possible to continue in discussions about finalising needed steps to be made for the new International Association for Geoethics.

Further activities (remarks of Dr. Nemec)

At several occasions (sometimes also with Lidmila Nemcova) I attended as observer on behalf of AGID **meetings of the IUGS/IGC Councils**. At one occasion Prof. Ochir Gerel (the outgoing IUGS Vice-president) introduced me to Dr. Ian Lambert (the 34th IGC Secretary General and the new IUGS Secretary General).

FRIDAY AUGUST 10

Last day of the Congress.

Photographs from the whole Congress:

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

See you in Cape Town!



Some interesting facts about the 34th IGC:

- 6012 participants;
- 112 countries were represented;
- 3712 oral papers were presented by 3232 authors;
- 1439 scientific posters were displayed.

The 34th IGC was the largest and most complex international scientific meeting ever held in Brisbane and the first to occupy every single meeting room at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

PERSONAL REMEMBRANCES

In Brisbane I attended **the TENTH International Geological Congress in my life** (the first one in my native Prague in 1968 and after 12 years break all Congresses since Paris 1980, until 2000 linked with my functions in the International Association for Mathematical Geology but already since 1992 connected with geoethics as well). Australia was for me **probably the 20th country where I had the pleasure (and mostly also privilege) to promote ideas of geoethics** (since 1991 and usually for an international audience):

Australia (IGC Brisbane - 2012)
Belgium (ICT Brussels - 2009)
Brazil (Sao Paulo, IGC Rio de Janeiro - 2000)
P.R. of China (IGC Beijing, Xuzhou - 1996)
Czech Republic (numerous national and international meetings every year 1991 - 2012)
England (AGID - Southampton - 1993)
France (Géosciences - 2009)
Germany (Bergakademie Freiberg – 1993; Chemnitz - 1999, 2003)
Hungary (Szeged - 2001)
Iceland (University of Reykjavík - 1993)
India (Nagpur - 2000)
Italy (IGC Florence - 2004, Rimini - GEOITALIA 2009)
Japan (IGC Kyoto - 1992)
Malta (seminar, Qawra -- 2008),
Norway (EBEN Sandvika - 1993, IGC Oslo - 2008)
Poland (Krakow - 1991, 1996; Rytro - 1999; Legnica - 2002-2004; Szklarska Poreba - 2002)
Russia (many times Moscow)
Slovakia (Technical University Košice – 1996; Bratislava - 2003)
Slovenia (Regional APCOM Bled - 1993)
Spain (ECONGEO Barcelona - 2006).

New ideas always need some time to be fully recognized. I have verified this historical experience in the course of my long service for mathematical geology (also registering a danger of overestimating unreliable and inadequate mathematical models). Analogical processes could be seen in case of other applied ethics (already in 1990 I started to become familiar with their ideas and problems). And the same process seemed to be valid for geoethics. To my surprise a new unethical phenomenon appeared in 2010 just when preparing - already for the fifth time - the symposium of geoethics for the IGC: indescribable confusions, misunderstanding, infection of mistrust, unmerited outrages gradually extended to my co-convenors etc. – always arriving from the same sources. An incredible waste of personal time (not only for me)! Also the IGC Secretary General was molested by this “affair” (I keep in my archives still 34 direct e-mail messages from him – not speaking about endless correspondence with the co-convenors of the Symposium 2.4, coordinators of Theme 2, AGID officers). At ALL previous congresses only a few interchanged e-mails with colleagues responsible for the scientific program of the Congress were needed to ensure the perfect result. Why such a change? “Common friends”, lack of ethical sensibility, transparency and application of subsidiary principles, misuse of the own competences and disrespect to those of others – this is just a part of the probable spectrum of ethical defects I see when trying to decipher and explain unusual behaviour of several persons in Italy and one in India resulting in a “fracture” in the geoethical community (as reported by an Australian journalist). Unfortunately such behaviour defects reflect a bad ethical climate in the world of our days as well as a decomposition of values - many people keeping basic ethical standards come to the same results. **Anybody who is interested in developing any applied ethics (including geoethics) should be morally obliged to maintain basic ethical principles as well as to serve to others as a trustful example (to be followed). This is my personal conviction.**

As presented elsewhere an excuse has been obtained from India. Let me appreciate the recent words of the top representative of the Italian geology:

Dear Prof. Nemec

thank you very much for your kind message. It has been a pleasure for me having had the opportunity to meet you and your wife in Brisbane.

I am also hoping that contact with the Italian geoscience community and you will be in the future as fruitful and satisfying as in the past.

Kind regards

Silvio Seno

Vaclav Nemec



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR GEOETHICS (IAGETH)

Several documents:



The official business meeting of the AGID international Working Group of Geoethics on August 7, 2012 in Brisbane, has adopted the following conclusion:

After more than 20 years of activities reflected in all International Geological Congresses since 1992, regular international meetings at Pribram /since 1992/ and elsewhere, activity of the WG under the umbrella of AGID, we have to take into consideration the increasing interest for this discipline in both theoretical and practical aspects, and the significance of the International Declaration of Geoethics.

Therefore, we have decided by unanimity to establish a new International Association for Geoethics.

All needed steps shall be arranged after the IGC and the Geoethics Conference in 2013 as the starting of the new independent, international body.

Nelson Memon
 [Signature]
 Humberto
 Avelar Kistner
 Rita L. Brown
 Catarina L. C. da
 Silva

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR GEOETHICS

Prague, August 20, 2012

To the
IUGS President Prof. Dr. Roland Oberhänsli
IUGS Secretary General Dr. Ian Lambert

Dear Colleagues,

I have the pleasure to announce you the foundation of a new

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR GEOETHICS.

After more than 20 years intensive activities of our international Working Group of Geoethics, with significant and unique participations in the IGC since 1992, and also other numerous and exciting international sessions, which were organized in Příbram, Czech Republic (the city of birth of Geoethics), we feel as an urgent need to increase the visibility of geoethics as well as to emphasize by this step the goals of the International Declaration of Geoethics and the role of geological factors in the future development of the human kind (as expressed in the IUGS Position Statement to the Earth Summit Rio+20).

The increasing interest for geoethics is expressed in the enclosed document of the business meeting of the AGID Working Group for Geoethics held in Brisbane, August 7, 2012. It has been also expressed in Brisbane by the successful Professional Development Workshop Nr. 13 (visited by 40 persons from 17 states) and by the symposium 2.4 at the Congress. The outgoing IUGS Council has also appreciated our activities at several occasions as well as the AGID Assembly General held in Brisbane, August 9, 2012.

Interdisciplinary access to our goals and a liaison with other applied ethics as well as fundamental ethical sensibility will be among priorities of our new Association.

The founding Executive Committee of the Association consists of:
the President: *Dr. Vaclav Nemec*, Czech Republic, Vice-president of AGID for Europe (just re-elected at the AGID General Assembly in Brisbane, August 9, 2012), Chair of the AGID WG for Geoethics
the First Vice-president: *Prof. Jesus Martinez-Frias*, Spain, Chair of the IUGS-COGE and Vice-president, Spanish Commission of Geoethics
the Vice-president: *Dr. Nataliya Nikitina*, Russia, chairperson of the Russian Chapter for Geoethics
the Vice-president: *Prof. Naichi Nishiwaki*, Japan, President of Japan Society of Geoinformatics
the Secretary General: *Prof. Ochir Gerel*, Mongolia, the outgoing Vice-president of the IUGS
members: *Dr. Lidmila Nemcova*, Czech Republic, President, Czech Society for Ethics in Economics, co-convenor of the regular international meetings on geoethics (the Mining Příbram Symposia)
Prof. Haiqiao Tan, P. R. of China, Geographical Society of China, representing the Chinese geoethical community.

The foundation of the Association was announced to the participants of the 34th IGC (Symposium 2.4) as well as on the website http://tierra.rediris.es/Geoethics_Planetary_Protection/.

We ask you to kindly take into consideration the foundation of our Association and our wish to serve to your goals. We shall highly appreciate your preliminary support for the further needed legal steps and any administrative agenda including our affiliation to the IUGS structures.

I would like to use this opportunity to express you our congratulation to your new top posts in the family of Earth scientists emphasizing our readiness to any needed support and co-operation.

On behalf of the founding Executive Committee:



Dr. Vaclav Nemec, President

Enclosure: document of the business meeting of the AGID Working Group for Geoethics (Brisbane, Aug. 7, 2012) signed by all members of the founding Executive Committee

News about the foundation of the **International Association for Geoethics** is available at <http://tierra.rediris-es/IAGETH> . Thanks to the IAGETH First Vice-President Professor Jesus Martinez – Frías the web site includes fundamental news (including Directory, Statutes). Publications and Links will be multiplied – the volume of the existing literature needs some time for its transmission.

Let us present the most important addresses for further direct contacts in already existing and newly established IAGETH national groups:

National groups - contact persons:

Argentina:	Prof. Rogelio Daniel Acevedo	acevedo@cadic-conicet.gob.ar ;
P.R.of China:	Prof. Haiqiao Tan	tan3893@163.com ;
Costa Rica:	Prof. Javier Bonatti	jbonatti2011@gmail.com ;
Czech Republic:	Dr. Vaclav Nemec	lidmila.nemcova@quick.cz ;
Germany:	Prof. F. Ludwig Wilke	F.Ludwig-wilke@t-online.de ;
India:	Prof. Arun D. Ahluwalia	arundeeep.ahluwalia@gmail.com ;
Italy:	Prof. Antonio Alberti	adralb@gmail.com ;
Japan:	Prof. Niichi Nishiwaki,	niichi@daibutsu.nara-u.ac.jp ;
Kazakhstan:	Prof. Azimkhan Kurmankozhaev	kurmankozhaev_a@mail.ru ;
Mongolia:	Prof. Ochir Gerel	gerel@must.edu.mn ;
Portugal:	Prof. José Carlos Kullberg	jck@fct.unl.pt
Russia:	Dr. Nataliya Nikitina	nikitinank@mmcintergeo.ru ;
Spain:	Prof. Jesus Martinez-Frias	jmfrias@cab.inta-csic.es ;
Tajikistan:	Dr. Vladislav Minaev (<i>provisory contact</i>)	mina.pamirs@gmail.com .

Negotiations in some other countries (Azerbaijan, Pakistan, USA) in progress, **any further help from anybody will be highly appreciated** (see the Questionnaire at the page 19).

Besides the pages hosted by the Spanish National Chapter also the web site of the National Chapter in Russia may be of interest for people understanding the Russian language: <http://www.geoethics.ru/> .

IAGETH is also in face book and in twitter!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/International-Association-for-Geoethics-IAGETH/310767362354722>

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, geography etc. have been frequently described in previous issues of GEOETHICS NEWS.

* *



**THE 35th INTERNATIONAL
GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS**
August 27 – September 4, 2016
Cape Town, South Africa

<http://www.35igc.org/>

SYMPOSIUM ON GEOETHICS IN CAPE TOWN – first steps:

From: Lidmila Nemcova
To: Jay.Barton@telkomsa.net

Sent: 15 September 2012 08:14 AM
Subject: Geoethics at the 35IGC

Dear Professor Jay Barton,

I have the pleasure to announce you on behalf of the International Association for Geoethics (IAGETH) the intention to continue in the long tradition of presenting Geoethics at the International Geological Congresses. For IGC 2016 in Cap Town we suggest the symposium under the title

Geoethics in Theory and Practice

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 (in the context of facing extraordinary disasters in the course of recent years - their analogy can be studied only in the memory of the Earth crust), with a sustainable use of mineral resources, with a geoethical approach to needed new legal aspects etc. 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. New achievement of geoethics and problems (as appeared since 2012) will be emphasized.

Historical and institutional background: 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 Příbram (Czech Republic) including sessions of the Working Group for Geoethics under the umbrella of AGID (2005 - 2011 every second year). Successful symposium 2.4 and Professional Development Workshop Nr. 13 at the 34th IGC in Brisbane have given birth to the new International Association of Geoethics (IAGETH). International Conferences of Geoethics (planned for October 2013 and 2015) will serve for more detailed preparation of the IGC 2016 events. More information: <http://tierra.rediris.es/IAGETH> . See also the enclosed informative poster presented in Brisbane.

Convenors:

Dr. Vaclav Nemec (Czech Republic), President of IAGETH, Vice-president of AGID for Europe, Chair of the AGID WG for Geoethics, convenor of the regular international meetings on geoethics (the Mining Příbram Symposia)

Prof. Ochir Gerel (Mongolia), the outgoing Vice-president of the IUGS, Secretary General of IAGETH

Prof. Jesus Martinez-Frias (Spain), Chair of the IUGS-COGE, First Vice-president of IAGETH, Vice-president, Spanish Commission of Geoethics

Dr. Lidmila Nemcova (Czech Republic), member of the Founding Executive Committee of IAGETH, President, Czech Society for Ethics in Economics, co-convenor of regular international meetings on geoethics (the Mining Příbram Symposia)

Dr. Nataliya Nikitina (Russia), Vice-president of IAGETH, chairperson of the Russian Chapter for Geoethics

Prof. Niichi Nishiwaki (Japan), Vice-president of IAGETH, President of Japan Society of Geoinformatics

Prof. Haiqiao Tan (P.R. of China), member of the Founding Executive Committee of IAGETH, member of the Geographical Society of China, representing the Chinese geoethical community.

Appropriate Theme: Until 2008 symposia on Geoethics were usually linked with those focussed on Geoeducation whereas in Brisbane we have been linked to the Theme 2 (Geoscience Benefiting Low Income Countries), mostly because of the affiliation of our Working Group for Geoethics with AGID - main organizer of the Theme 2. It appears that it will be more effective to be associated to the **Theme 1 - Geoscience for Society** for following reasons:

- a) Geoethics cover interests of the whole society (not only low income countries);
- b) Closer contact with geoeducation;
- c) Growing interest and importance of geoethics.

In case that other suggestions for a symposium on geoethical problems will be presented and accepted - then the experiences verified in 2004 and 2008 should be adopted (two or more separate - not parallel - symposia).

Looking forward to our further co-operation,

With kind regards,

Vaclav Nemec

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

From: [Jay Barton](#) **To:** '[Lidmila Nemcova](#)' **Sent:** Saturday, September 15, 2012 9:25 AM
Subject: RE: Geoethics at the 35IGC

Many thanks for your input.

Not much will happen until 2015 but you can count on session/s

Cheers, Jay

*Professor Jay Barton Pr.Sci.Nat Geological Consultant
PO Box 72196 Parkview 2122, Johannesburg, South Africa*

27-11-486-0337

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

From: [Lidmila Nemcova](#) **To:** [Jay Barton](#) **Sent:** Saturday, September 15, 2012 3:11 PM
Subject: 35IGC: Geoethics - Symposium and Workshop

Dear Jay,

Many thanks for your immediate reply.

*Let me only add that **we plan to organize at the Cap Town IGC 2016 also - as in Brisbane - a (professional development) WORKSHOP on geoethics. Details in due time later.***

Best wishes and regards,

Vaclav

OTHER NEWS:

NASA ROVER „CURIOSITY“ LANDED ON MARS: Spain has an instrument on board

From: [Jesus Martinez-Frias](#)

Sent: Saturday, August 25, 2012 6:04 PM

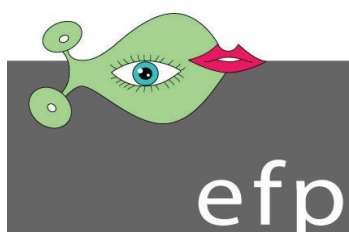
Dear Vaclav and colleagues,

As you probably know, the NASA rover Curiosity landed on Mars and I am part of the scientific staff of the mission. It is a great responsibility. For the first time, Spain has an instrument on board (The Rover Environmental Monitoring Station - REMS) and a lot of science and much hard work (at different timetables) are needed. This is a great achievement and probably the only way in my life that I have this exciting chance. Geoethics is also extremely important in planetary and space exploration and research and I'll do my best to include the Nemec's spirit in all astrogeological and astrobiological activity.

**Dear Jesus,
Congratulations to your great personal double success –
"on Heaven as well as on the Earth"!**

Vaclav Nemec

* *



European Foresight Platform Forward Looking Activities Governing Grand Challenges

**September 27-28, 2012
Vienna, Austria**

At this interesting meeting Dr. Vaclav Nemec emphasized the necessity to include geological factors of the latest two IGC (Oslo and Brisbane) as well as the IUGS statement to Rio+20 into any foresight scenario. Lidmila Nemcova spoke about the necessity of critical and ethical thinking. In the closing discussion Vaclav Nemec appreciated the intensified establishing of interdisciplinary networks and on behalf of both IAGETH and AGID communities offered a closer co-operation in future projects. Several participants from various fields of science manifested their interest for geoethics.

Definitions of Ethics (incl. Geoethics):

<http://www.answers.com/topic/ethics-legal-term#Geoethics>

See:

[3 Applied ethics](#)

[3.2.2 Geoethics](#)

[10 External links](#)

Contacts (for GEOETHICS NEWS):

E-mail:

LIDMILA.NEMCOVA@QUICK.CZ Dr. Václav Nemec and his wife Dr. Lidmila Nemcová (in Prague);

PHONE (RECORDER): ++420 274 811 801 (++420 281 962 158);

in emergency cases when a direct approach to the previous e-mail address fails:

DOLEZALOVA@DIAMO.CZ (DIAMO library and guest office of Dr. Nemec at Příbram);

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

ATTENTION! INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE QUESTIONNAIRE:

The questionnaire (page 19) is to be sent with your completed data to the addresses: LIDMILA.NEMCOVA@QUICK.CZ; DOLEZALOVA@DIAMO.CZ as well as to the IAGETH contact person in your country– if such a contact exists (see p. 13).

We are also interested to know your preliminary interest to take part in the International Conference on Geoethics (Příbram, October 2013).

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

Editor of the GEOETHICS NEWS:

Dr. Václav Němec

President, International Association for Geoethics (elected in Brisbane, August 7, 2012)

Vice-president for Europe, AGID (re-elected in Brisbane, August 9, 2012)

head, AGID Working Group for Geoethics

convenor, International Conference on Geoethics, Příbram 2013

QUESTIONNAIRE*

Delete the inappropriate options:

Personal data:

Name:

Address:

E-mail:

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

IAGETH membership:

- I am member of the national group already existing in my country
- I have already asked for the membership via IAGETH web pages
- I am interested to become member of the International Association for Geoethics (IAGETH):
 - *I am ready to join the IAGETH National Group already existing in my country*
 - *I would like to join such a group (if already some establishment process has started) or to help with starting such a process in my country (send me further information)*
 - *We are - I am ready to join IAGETH as an associate (supporting) member*

* to be sent with your completed data to: LIDMILA.NEMCOVA@QUICK.CZ; DOLEZALOVA@DIAMO.CZ as well as to the IAGETH contact person (National Chapter) in your country – if such a contact exists (see p. 13).

The International Conference on Geoethics (Příbram, October 2013):

I am planning to take part: YES not yet decided NO

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

