



October 15, 2026 - International Geoethics Day

We are celebrating the 10th International Geoethics Day with the theme " Bridging Disciplines, Connecting Responsibilities" determined for 2026 by the International Association for the Promotion of Geoethics (IAPG).

Our responsibility to the Earth is our obligation to society...

Bridging Disciplines, Connecting Responsibilities.

In today's increasingly complex world, climate change, natural disasters, ecosystem degradation, depletion of natural resources, rapid and unplanned urbanization, and environmental injustice are not only scientific and technical issues but also a matter of profound **ethical responsibility**. How we address these problems is directly linked to how we use the knowledge we possess about nature, as well as the extent to which we take responsibility for the consequences of our decisions.

Geoethics is a field of thought that examines the ethical dimensions of humanity's relationship with the Earth system in the processes of producing, sharing, and applying geological knowledge, and aims for the responsible use of scientific knowledge. This approach also requires considering the human and societal consequences of scientific decisions. Therefore, *it is of great importance that earth sciences do not remain within their own boundaries but are in dialogue with other natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, health sciences, engineering, law, economics, education, public policies, and local information systems.* Understanding the problems of the world and developing lasting solutions to them requires bringing together the knowledge and experiences of different disciplines on a common ground.

The main theme, **"Bridging Disciplines, Connecting Responsibilities"** highlights the potential of geoethics to strengthen a sense of responsibility and its unifying and transformative role. *Because decisions concerning our planet affect not only rocks, soils, minerals, waters, and natural processes, but also human life, cultures, and the living conditions of future generations.* Therefore, every decision regarding the world is also about what kind of life we want to create and how we will share the responsibility for that life.

Its location in the Alpine-Himalayan mountain belt, active fault systems, earthquake risk, rich geological and biological diversity, water and mineral resources, coastal areas, and rapidly changing urbanization dynamics make Turkey a geography where geoethical questions find concrete expression in daily life. *Especially the societal experience gained after major earthquakes has clearly shown that engineering measures alone are insufficient in disaster risk*

management; scientific knowledge, public responsibility, education, social awareness, justice, and ethical decision-making processes must also be considered. This experience requires us to reconsider the role of science in social life and who bears what degree of responsibility for the consequences of the decisions made.

Strengthening the geoethical approach is a primary need to address the problems facing humanity. This can be achieved by bringing geological knowledge to the public, as well as developing trust-based cooperation and creating a culture of shared responsibility among

scientists, decision makers, educational institutions, local governments, and the community. In every area, from the use of natural resources to urban planning, from disaster risk reduction to the protection of geological heritage, the fundamental question should not only be "**What can we do?**" but also "**What should we do, and under whose responsibility should we carry it out?**" Considering these questions together will contribute to addressing scientific possibilities from an ethical perspective and building a more just and livable future.

Geoethics reminds us that the Earth is not merely a physical environment in which we live; it is a shared living space encompassing the records of the past, the life of the present, and the possibilities of the future. Therefore, **sustainability** requires not only the transfer of resources to future generations but **also the equitable sharing of knowledge, responsibility, and decision-making processes across generations and disciplines.**

The call from Turkey on the 2026 International Geoethics Day is clear: **Understanding the Earth is a scientific responsibility; living in harmony with the Earth is our shared ethical responsibility.** Every bridge we build between disciplines will connect not only different fields of knowledge but also humanity's responsibilities towards the future of the Earth.

Happy Geoethics Day

TMMOB CHAMBER OF GEOLOGICAL ENGINEERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TÜRKİYE