



IAPGeoethics Newsletter n. 2 (2017)

This is the official newsletter of the IAPG. It contains news about events, initiatives, publications on Geoethics by the IAPG.

The International Association for Promoting Geoethics (IAPG) is a multidisciplinary, scientific community and aims at creating awareness about application of ethical principles to theoretical and practical aspects of Geosciences.

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The IAPG is legally recognized as a not-for-profit association, has 1,558 members in 113 countries in 5 continents, and can count on a network of **25 national sections**.

Send any kind of information about Geoethics that could be published in the IAPG webpages to: iapgeoethics@aol.com

International Website: <http://www.geoethics.org>

Blog: <http://iapgeoethics.blogspot.it>

IAPG newsletter collection: <http://www.geoethics.org/newsletter.html>

Membership

Becoming an IAPG member is easy! Fill in the form in the IAPG website at <http://www.geoethics.org/membership.html>. No fee is required at this time.



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CONGRESSES



SLIDES, POSTERS and PHOTOGALLERY of the IAPG session on geoethics at EGU 2017

Vienna (Austria), 26 April 2017

Geoethics is a well-established presence within the EGU General Assemblies. Starting from the first session in 2012, the interest in ethical and social issues related to geosciences has rapidly grown, years after years the spectrum of the treated topics has become wider. This year in the session program we have had 12 orals and 20 posters, a great success considering the novelty of the abstract fee introduced also for the Outreach, Education, and Media sessions. Presentations have been authored by 75 colleagues from 19 countries (Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Senegal, Switzerland, Tanzania, United Kingdom, USA). Presentations have covered a wide spectrum of geoethical issues, including theoretical aspects of geoethics, geoscience professionalism, ethical implications in geoscience communication, information, education, geo-hazards and data management, mining, geoparks, ocean science, geo-archeology, forensic geology, data science policies, citizen science.

Slides and posters of presentations

Photogallery on IAPG Flyckr



GEOETHICS AT IAEG ARC-11 2017

11th Asian Regional Conference of IAEG
Kathmandu (Nepal), 28-30 November 2017

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Theme 12: Geoethics in Engineering Geology and georisk reduction
(organized by IAPG - International Association for Promoting Geoethics)

This theme will collect abstracts discussing ethical and social aspects in engineering geology, from theoretical to practical issues, including case-studies, with a special focus on ethical and social issues related to geo-risks reduction.

The Theme 12 is chaired by Surya Parkash (coordinator of IAPG-India) and Shree Prasad Vista (coordinator of IAPG-Nepal).

More information



GEOETHICS AT THE CONGRESS "EARTH SCIENCES FOR SOCIETY"

El Jadida/Marrakech (Morocco), 20-24 March 2018

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
deadline: 30 October 2017

Theme 9 "Geoethics".
Convenership: Peter Bobrowsky (Canada), Ezzoura Errami (Morocco), Silvia Peppoloni (Italy), Zakaria Hamimi (Egypt).

First Circular (pdf file)



GEOETHICS AT THE RESOURCES FUTURE GENERATIONS CONFERENCE 2018

Vancouver (Canada), 16-21 June 2018

IAPG is recognized as Technical Partner of the RFG 2018 Conference and geoethics has been included among the sub-themes (under the theme "Resources and Society").

IAPG has submitted 5 sessions on different issues of geoethics: **research integrity** (convenership: Dave Mogk, Susan Kieffer, Cindy Palinkas; session endorsed and sponsored by IAPG and U.S. National Committee for Geological Sciences); **geoethics and environmental and social responsibility in geo-resources** (Giuseppe Di Capua, Peter Bobrowsky, Silvia Peppoloni, Jan Boon, Selina Tribe; co-organized with the Environmental and Social Responsibility Society of the Canadian Institute of Mining); **geoethics in georisks management** (Giuseppe Di Capua, Peter Bobrowsky, Vincent Cronin, Silvia Peppoloni, Stefano Tinti); **forensic geology and geoethics** (Giuseppe Di Capua, Silvia Peppoloni; co-organized with IUGS - Initiative on Forensic Geology); **geoethics in geo-education and geoscience communication** (Silvia Peppoloni, Nic Bilham, Martin Bohle, Iain Stewart; co-organized with GSL - Geological Society of London).

The call for abstracts will be open on 1st August 2017. **Stay tuned!**

More info about RFG 2018 Conference

CAPE TOWN STATEMENT ON GEOETHICS: NEWS



SGI - Società Geologica Italiana (Italian Geological Society) has endorsed the "[Cape Town Statement on Geoethics](#)".

We wish to thank the SGI President, Prof. Elisabetta Erba, and the SGI Executive Council for this important acknowledgment of the IAPG work.

IAPG - International Association for Promoting Geoethics (<http://www.geoethics.org>)

Currently, the "[Cape Town Statement on Geoethics](#)" is supported by 16 geoscience organizations:

- International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)
- European Federation of Geologists (EFG)
- African Association of Women in Geosciences (AAWG)
- Young Earth Scientists Network (YES Network)
- International Geoscience Education Organisation (IGEO)
- International Association for Geoscience Diversity (IAGD)
- EuroGeoSurveys (EGS)
- American Geophysical Union (AGU)
- American Geosciences Institute (AGI)
- Geological Society of America (GSA)
- International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG)
- Italian Geological Society (SGI)
- Geology for Global Development (GfGD)
- South Asian Association of Women Geoscientists (SAAWG)
- Geology in the Public Interest (GPI)
- African Network for Geo-Education (ANGE)

Cape Town Statement on Geoethics



Geology for Global Development (GfGD) has included the [Cape Town Statement on Geoethics](#) at the heart of its [strategy 2017-2021](#).

[Read more](#)



NEW NATIONAL SECTIONS



WELCOME TO IAPG-PAKISTAN

The section will work under the responsibility of **Muhammad Yaseen** (below on the left) and **Emad Ullah Khan** (below on the right), Lecturers at the Department of Geology, Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan.



[Read more about IAPG-Pakistan](#)

[List of the IAPG National Sections](#)



NEW TASK GROUP



Task Group on "Responsible Mining"

The IAPG Task Group on Responsible Mining (TGRM) has been officially appointed on 8 May 2017.



Jan Boon
(Canada)



Pekka Nurmi
(Finland)



Nikolaos Arvanitidis
(Sweden)



Giuseppe Di Capua
(Italy)

The goal of the TGRM is to draft a document on "Responsible Mining", on values and concepts to be considered and their importance for future generations in the perspective of a sustainable development of our societies. This document will give essential elements of reference to frame this important topic in an ethical perspective, in order to push different stakeholders to take into consideration (and possibly formally adopt) an orienting document which recalls them to the efficient and prudent exploitation and use of geo-resources, the respect of natural environment by minimizing the impacts of mining activities, the strong awareness of local populations and cultures, the adoption and application of high standards of quality and upgraded health and safety conditions in the working environment, the development of new innovative technologies and processes, and the implementation of eco-friendly and socio-friendly best practices.

The IAPG Task Group on "Responsible Mining" is composed of:

Jan Boon (Canada), Pekka Nurmi (Finland), Nikolaos Arvanitidis (Sweden), Giuseppe Di Capua (Italy).

[Read more](#)



AFFILIATIONS/AGREEMENTS



Agreement IAPG-IAH

On 5 April 2017, IAPG - International Association for Promoting Geoethics and IAH - International Association of Hydrogeologists has signed an agreement for cooperation. The agreement expresses a mutual desire to co-operate on a range of issues in the field of geoethics and groundwater.

[Read here](#)



Agreement IAPG-IUGS IFG

On 7 April 2017, IAPG - International Association for Promoting Geoethics and IUGS-IFG - Initiative on Forensic Geology has signed an agreement for cooperation. The agreement expresses a mutual desire to co-operate on a range of issues in the field of geoethics and forensic geology.

[Read here](#)



Agreement IAPG-GfGD

On 24 May 2017, Silvia Peppoloni (IAPG Secretary General) and Joel Gill (GfGD President) has signed a Memorandum of Agreement between IAPG - International Association for Promoting Geoethics and GfGD - Geology for Global Development.

The aim of the Memorandum is to collaborate in the promotion of geoethics as an important consideration for all geoscientists, particularly emphasizing the role of geoethics in delivering sustainable development in low-income countries.

[Read here](#)

FROM NATIONAL SECTIONS



Egypt

NEW BOOK: "Africa and Mineral Wealth"

by Kholoud Mohamed Abdelmaksoud (Institute of African Research and Studies, Cairo University; coordinator of IAPG-Egypt)

This book (in Arabic) describes the natural resources, with special emphasis on mineral resources in African countries, by giving definitions, illustrating geological features and the distribution of resources, and by describing civil wars related to their exploitation and the effects on countries involved. The book focuses also on the ranking of the African countries in the production of some strategic resources, like oil, natural gas, gold and diamonds. What is geoethics, the Geoethical promise and the Cape Town Statement and a description on the role of geoethics in saving natural resources is reported in the last book chapter.

For more information, send an email to: kholoud.mohamedali@gmail.com.



Ukraine

Geoethics for children

IAPG-Ukraine (coordinator: Yuriy Kostyuchenko) organized an educational event for children on 11 June 2017 in Yaremche, Carpathian National Park (Ukraine), aimed to introduce some geo-ethical concepts to young people.

During the field trip the following issues were discussed:

- Introduction to the landscape study: "our world through the eyes of a scientist".
- How to evaluate the impact of the human activity on the mountain forest and water.
- Natural resources exploration and production in mountainous areas: symbiosis strategy against predation behaviour.
- Climate change and environment: sustainability and vulnerability of different components of local geo-ecosystem.

IAPG - International Association for Promoting Geoethics (<http://www.geoethics.org>)

With magnifying glass and a pocket microscopes 8 species of moss, 4 ferns, 14 species of higher plants, few types of pests and plant diseases, geological rocks and soils were examined. Finally interactive scientific games were organized, among them "Riskland: the fun way to learn how to prevent disasters".

Children who won games were awarded the "IAPG EcoSafety Cup" and the "IAPG GeoEthics Cup".



Portugal

1st International Summer University

UNESCO Chair on Geoparks, Sustainable Regional Development and Healthy lifestyles

The Programme of 1st International Summer University, that will take place in Portugal, University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, from 3 to 14 July 2017 is now available. A special module of the course by Elizabeth Silva (IAPG Corresponding Citizen Scientists) is focused to Geoethics and Geoparks.

Look at the programme here: <https://unescochairutad.wordpress.com/program/>.

The UNESCO Chair on Geoparks, Sustainable Regional Development and Healthy Lifestyles is the first in the world dedicated to Geoparks and Healthy Lifestyles. This UNESCO Chair has as main goal to create an innovative and integrated network of research, teaching and transfer of knowledge, joint research projects and communication for increasing society awareness on these topics, mainly focused in capacity building activities.

[Read more](#)





Peru

OPEN LETTER

concerning the recent climatic events in Peru and the resulting damages

In the light of extreme meteorological events occurred in Peru in March 2017, IAPG-Peru released an Open Letter addressed to the Peruvian Society with an exhortation to adopt a series of actions to face extreme meteorological events in order to reduce geo-risks.

[Read more](#)



United Kingdom

Geoethics, professionalism and me: social and ethical responsibilities of the 21st century geoscientist

Nic Bilham (IAPG continental coordinator for Europe) gave a talk at the GSL (Geological Society of London) - Western Regional Group on 18 April 2017 entitled "Geoethics, professionalism and me – social and ethical responsibilities of the 21st century geoscientist".

[Read more](#)



Pakistan

IAPG-Pakistan: 1st Business Meeting

The 1st Business Meeting of IAPG-Pakistan has been held on 15 May, 2017 at 10:00 AM in the Conference Room of the Department of Geology, Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan (AWKUM).

[Read more](#)

FROM THE IAPG BLOG



Why Nigerian miners should go to Big Church Green

(by Greg Odogwu, Nigeria)

"... Due to mining activities in its neighbourhood, the natural resources capital is permanently lost, with possible partial loss in other aspects of capital, like a clean environment. Sustainable mining incorporates compensation for the society towards these losses by increasing several other capital assets ...".



Deforestation and landslide hazard in Malawi: a geoethical perspective

(by Annie Sylvério Jere, Malawi)

"... developing alternative sources of energy will contribute to prevent deforestation and reduce the landslide hazard, with positive repercussions on the protection of the natural environment and the safety of population ...".



Geoethics of fracking and oil

(by Franco Oboni, Canada)

"... we want to serve our societies and make economic, environmental, ethical sense with our operations ...".



Other articles from the IAPG blog

<http://www.geoethics.org/articles-from-iapg-blog>

FROM OUR COMMUNITY



Social changes and Geosciences

by Gian Vito Graziano

(past President of the Italian Consiglio Nazionale dei Geologi)

"... This is a responsibility that the community itself has taken on, tending to '... encourage the use of critical analysis of natural resources, the promotion and protection of the Geosphere, accurate information about the risks, the involvement of the society in the idea of a common and shared geological heritage, which favors a social construction of knowledge' (Manifesto of "Geoethics and geological culture" as reported in Peppoloni and Di Capua, 2011; see also Peppoloni and Di Capua, 2015) ...".

This article was published in the European Geologist Journal 43 – Geothermal – The Energy of the Future.

[Read more](#)



Report estimated quake death tolls to save lives

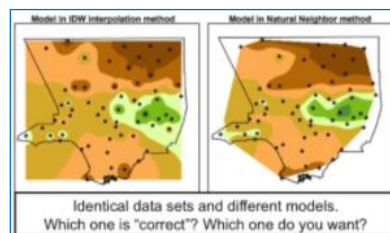
by Max Wyss

(Emeritus professor of the Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska, USA, and associated with the International Centre for Earth Simulation Foundation, Switzerland)

"For a decade, seismologists have been able to generate fast, reliable estimates of the number of people likely to have been killed in an earthquake, to within a factor of two or three¹. But these valuable tools are still not being used to save lives. Knowing whether 10 or 10,000 people might have died tells governments how much effort they should direct to rescuing people buried under rubble. Time is short — few individuals survive for more than three days ...".

This article was published in Nature 545, 151–153 (11 May 2017), doi:10.1038/545151a.

[Read more](#)



Geoscience honesty: avoiding the misuse of models

by David M. Abbott, Jr.
(AIPG Ethics Columnist)

"Honesty is the principal geoscience ethical principle (Abbott, 2000). "The only ethical principle which has made science possible is that the truth shall be told all the time. If we do not penalize the false statements made in error, we open up the way, don't you see, for false statements by intention. And of course, a false statement of fact, made deliberately, is the most serious crime a scientist can commit." (C.P. Snow, The Search, 1959). Snow's statement concisely summarizes the importance of honesty in science. The Search is a novel in which the protagonist, a young physicist, publishes results that are based on an assistant's work that was not checked. When others attempt to repeat the results, errors in the original work are discovered. The young physicist's previously promising career is ended because he has violated the honesty rule as quoted above. Verification of geoscience data and recognition that geoscience models, while very useful, have inherent limitations that should be described in papers and reports are, or should be, a fundamental part of any geoscience study or project ...".

This article was published in mininggeologyhq.com.

[Read more](#)

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