

CHALLENGE FOR SEARCHING NEW GEOETHICAL TRAJECTORIES OF DEVELOPMENT

Humanity stands at crossroads. It is necessary to respect sustainability criteria for further development with regard to the future generations. Raw material resources are being gradually exhausted and for many countries in connection with the further development a danger of raw materials deficiency arises (including water). This is - together with terrorist acts - one of the most serious threats to a peaceful development.

At the International Geological Congress in Beijing in 1996 the outgoing IUGS president W. S. Fyfe spoke about the overlaps of political and military conflicts maps with those of raw materials occurrences in the world. Then such a speech seemed to be audacious and new for such an international forum. Today the liaison of politics and geology is a common usual presentation in the light of the increasing shortage of natural mineral resources in the world and of their ever more difficult accessibility and availability. It is true that the mineral wealth of the planet has to be observed from an interdisciplinary perspective - including not only geological, environmental, technical, economic, legal aspects but also social, political, psychological, sociological, historical, aesthetical, artistic, geographical etc. points of view – not forgetting a kind of the bird's-eye view presented by theological perspectives. This contribution is focussed on some of the ethical aspects of geology and politics. Many concrete examples (including doctrines) can be presented.

Today's usual standard indices of development (e.g. GDP) are no longer sufficient because they are focussed exclusively on economic factors. Therefore on the basis of a broad consensus and dialogue a search for new indices is needed that would express also the ethical dimension and trajectories for the further economic, social and environmental development - both in individual regions as well as at the entire planet. Geoethical views can help to ensure a global responsibility and a new-style in a comprehensive global development (including new ways of thinking and rational consumption of the population).

Today's world wonders what will be his future in an era of globalisation. Any generation had to resolve geoethical problems and dilemmas – some times more, some times less difficult. Nowadays situation demands to elaborate various scenarios and trajectories of the further development in a broad spectrum from very pessimistic to highly optimistic solutions. In any case the visions should be realistic, fair and just, based on such values as the needs of the mankind fully respecting dignity, responsibility, conviction and hope. A change of priorities should be expected.

Actual needs of the mankind can be solved on the basis of a common effort and willingness. A very important role should be reserved for politicians and statesmen responsible for final decisions.

Výzva k hledání nových geoetických trajektorií vývoje

Lidstvo stojí na rozcestí. Je nezbytné podrobit se kritériím udržitelnosti dalšího vývoje s ohledem na příští generace. Surovinové zdroje se postupně vyčerpávají a pro mnohé státy vyvstává v souvislosti s jejich dalším rozvojem nebezpečí deficitu potřebných nerostných surovin (včetně vody), což představuje vedle teroristických aktů nejvážnější ohrožení mírumilovného vývoje. Dnešní běžné indexy vývoje (např. HDP) již nedostačují, protože jsou zaměřeny výlučně na jeho ekonomickou stránku. Proto je třeba na základě dialogu a širokého konsensu hledat nové ukazatele, které by obsáhly také etický rozměr a vystihly trajektorii dalšího ekonomického, sociálního i ekologického vývoje jak v jednotlivých regionech, tak i na celé planetě. Geoetické pohledy mohou přispět k zajištění globální odpovědnosti a k novému stylu všestranného globálního rozvoje (včetně nového způsobu uvažování i racionální spotřeby obyvatelstva). K tomu je třeba vytvořit a uvést do života nové struktury na všech úrovních.

Doc. Ing. Lidmila Němcová, CSc., K rybníčkům 17, CZ - 100 00 Praha 10 – Strašnice