

SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF GEOETHICS TO BE SOLVED IN A NEAR FUTURE

Introductory unofficial remarks to the general discussion to be used for preparing the final version of the International Declaration of Geoethics 2013

1. The highest value in our world is to be represented by the life of human beings with corresponding spiritual abilities and free will. This must be fully respected as main guidelines for the life of any person.
2. A free and democratic development of geoethics is possible exclusively by personal efforts of people who already have proved their ethical way of thinking and acting as well as their ability to serve as models to others. Officers in any international organization focused on Earth sciences (especially on geoethics) should accomplish this criterion. The code of ethics as used by the European Federation of Geologists (after a small revision) is to be recommended as a document for application in any public organism in the domain of Earth sciences.
3. In the present situation of very intensive geological and climatic changes beyond the memory of the human kind it is absolutely necessary to:
 - a) intensify seeking of possible ways of the scientific progress leading to:
 - a more concrete knowledge of various regularities in the Earth history in a rather brief time horizon,
 - a better protection of the human civilisation in a rather “mid-term” time horizon,
 - a possible mitigation of expected natural disasters by means of a managed transfer of the human life into the less threatened regions (from the geological and geomorphological points of view) in a long time horizon;
 - b) in emergency regions of megafloods, landslides, tsunamis etc.:
 - to strongly forbid any new construction of buildings and any new private or public investments,
 - to complete a system of effective dams (barrages) resistant to floods of a far higher intensity,
 - to transfer dangerous industrial objects into more suitable localities,
 - to recommend to those people whose houses have been already damaged by floods not to re-install various equipments to the basements and lower floors,
 - by means of an intensive public enlightening activities to prepare citizens of all age categories for an adequate behaviour in any emergency case (ready to react in a proper way);
 - to solve step-by-step and with a high sensibility changes of insurance contracts in areas with increased risks of natural hazards.

4. The actual activities of the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Changes are not sustainable with the existing knowledge of the Earth sciences (as presented in the results of the 33rd and 34th International Geological Congresses). This knowledge should be incorporated into any further work of the IPCC.

5. In the sphere of legislation in a large international co-operation

- to re-formulate the term of a “false alarm” and its legal consequences (taking into consideration the present extraordinary period),
- to demand very consequently the needed evaluation of existing risks (including their public explaining in a form understandable to anybody),
- to solve problems of rights of individuals and minorities in cases of the optimum use of mineral resources and of the optimum protection of the local population against emergency dangers and disasters; common good (well-being) must be considered as the priority when solving ethical dilemmas.

6. Risks caused by natural hazards should be evaluated by completing them with risks discovered by the research of nanotechnologies and nanomaterials.

7. The safety of any nuclear energy investment should be increased by any means giving a complete information to the population about the existing risks, dangers and advantages (against disinformation by various lobbies). Further perfection of a fair and safe nuclear energy use should be oriented on applying reactors-breeders on fast neutrons, i.e. reactors that produce more fuel than burn. (For example, one 1000-MWatt coal station requires 7 echelon coal per one day, the same 1000-MWatt reactor requires one wagon in a year.)

8. In the sphere of education and public enlightenment an appropriate needed minimum know how of Earth sciences should be intensively promoted together with cultivating ethical way of thinking and acting.

9. Geological art (geoart) should be developed and oriented to a further cultivation of nobility and sensibility of human kind to the Nature and to the Earth.

10. Any effort should be supported to disclose the problems of the deformation of contemporary science very closely connected with many practical problems in Earth sciences. In the framework of discovering the real and complete truth a broad and open discussion is needed. (A totalitarian way of acting on peer reviews and similar committees should be replaced by respecting, appreciating and promoting any idea showing another alternative possible solution of the problem in the interest of the common good. Such a policy cannot be confused with efforts trying to misuse this process by promoting purely egoistic personal and group interests.)

11. An open and efficient discussion should be started with media emphasizing their high responsibility for promoting ethical way of thinking and acting as well as a correct promotion of geoethics in the whole world.

12. A special demand of the AGID Working Group of Geoethics should be addressed to the IUGS for an appropriate revision and approval of the affiliation of IAGETH and IAPG (revoking inappropriate steps to the founders of the IAGETH).