

European Federation of Geologists

GEONEWS December 2006

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1. GENERAL NEWS

-Multi-Country workshop on EU legislation and best practices in geology for sustainable use of natural resources, Co-organized by EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF GEOLOGISTS (EFG), GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF HUNGARY, AND HUNGARIAN GEOLOGICAL SURVEY in collaboration with the European Commission, 21 – 22 November 2006, Budapest, Hungary.

This workshop gave the opportunity to geologists and administrator coming from twenty Europe countries to discuss how European Legislation influences the Geological Profession, particularly with regard to sustainable use of natural resources.

The aim of the workshop was to present the current state of implementation of legislation and initiatives at EU-level, which are related to the sustainable use of natural resources and geology. A substantial discussion by representatives of regional development and land use management authorities, relevant industries, and geoscientist professionals took place about the current issues particularly associated with geological expert based policies, regulations and the availability of spatial geoinformation. The workshop focused in particular on natural resources management and evaluation including minerals, water, soil, oil and gas. Environmental impact, renewable energy and safety aspects of sustainable development were also treated at national, regional, and local level, taking into account the relationship to economic growth.

Very high levels of presentations were made by representatives of the European Commission, members of European Federation of Geologists, Hungarian Geological Survey and other organizations such EuroGeoSurvey, and European Geothermal Energy Council.

The participants were mostly geologists and they represented more than twenty European countries. The countries supported by Taiex in this workshop were the new EU Members. And some other countries participated in the workshop: Croatia, Serbia, Netherlands, Portugal. In total the number of participants and speakers was 56. During the workshop, EFG had the opportunity to strengthen relationships with some European countries and potential new EFG members such as: Serbia, Croatia, Cyprus, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

The workshop was divided into four sessions.

- Session A: General Framework
- Session B: Sustainable use of mineral resources
- Session C: Sustainable use of water and soil resources
- Session D: Sustainable Use of Energy

The workshop concluded with a discussion of national practice in the different resources areas and the of views between participants and speakers. Each session tried to answer two questions: What support and services can Geologists offer in terms of a sustainable use of natural resources? What do Geologists need to ensure these services?. Geologists' duties in the field of European legislation and the insufficient penetration in regional development and land use planning were presented. More communication between geologists and the regional, national and European authorities will be necessary.

EFG has received a very positive evaluation of the event and would like to thank all the participants, speakers, and in particular the European Commission, Technical Assistance Information Exchange Unit in DG Enlargement for facilitating this workshop.

More information about the workshop can be found on the Taiex website, <http://taiex.cec.eu.int/>, Library, EventId: 23132. EFG is preparing a CD containing most of the presentations. If you are interested in obtaining the CD, please contact the EFG Office in Brussels by email efgbrussels@hotmail.com

EVENTS

-EFG BOARD MEETING AND INFORMAL COUNCIL MEETING, BRUSSELS 8-10 DECEMBER 2006. Geological Survey of Belgium, Rue Jenner, 13, B-1000, Brussels, Belgium.

2. RESOURCES AND RESERVES –AND THEIR SUSTAINABLE USE

-European Minerals Forum 2006 “Addressing The Social Challenges”. This Forum took place on Tuesday 28 November 2006, Brussels Belgium. EFG attended this meeting, where the different policy groups were:

- PG 1: Preventing Occupational Accidents,
- PG 2: Managing land and communicating with the local community (EFG attended)
- PG 3: Attracting Young People to the Industry (EFG attended)
- PG 4: Reducing Noise, Vibration and Dust

PG 3: Attracting Young People to the Industry (Summary report)

Chair: Claude Stenneler, president, IMA-Europe

Introduction: Professor Nicolai Martens, Technical University of Aachen, Germany

Policy Rapporteur: Corina Hebestreit, Secretary General, Euromines

Lead Commission Representative: Jackie Morin, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

The number of students in programmes related to the mining sector has been reduced. In the last 20 years, 20% of programmes have been closed. Among the main reasons are the negative image of the sector and lack of knowledge about the industry. Many young people choose preferentially other engineering programmes and graduates often develop their professional careers in other engineering sectors.

The main conclusions were support of mining departments in Universities, improvement of the recruitment and assumption of teaching responsibilities by the professors. The cooperation between industry, EU and university is necessary.

-15th Meeting of the Association of European Geological Societies (MAEGS-15), “Georesources and public policy: research, management, environment”. 16-20 September 2007, Tallinn, Estonia. Co-organized by the Association of European Geological Societies (AEGS) and the Geological Society of Estonia (EgeoS). The scientific focus of the MAEGS-15 conference will be on the formation, sustainable use management of various georesources including, but not limited to, oil and gas (including methane hydrates), oil-shale and coal, mineral ores (including platinum group elements), raw materials, peat and soil, and groundwater.

1 January 2007. Deadline for “Early Bird” registration and payment of reduced fee.

Should you have any questions or need further information please check the conference website and do not hesitate to contact the organizers.

Website: www.maegs15.org

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-The 11th Nordic Research Seminar about Aggregates. 16-17 January 2007, Trondheim, Norway. The aim of this seminar is to spread information about new research projects to map out research activities in the Nordic countries and to create a contact net between different research fields and institutions. The conference will focus on the following themes:

- Stone Materials in the Nordic Countries
- The Business Situation
- Health, environment and safety
- Sustainable development and production in the Nordic countries
- Test methods
- Properties
- Technology

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3. RESOURCES AND RESERVES – MINERALS AND THEIR SUSTAINABLE USE

EVENTS

-2nd Extractive Industry and the Environment in Central Europe (EIECE 2007), 12-14 September 2007, Brno, Czech Republic. Organized by Těžební unie CZ (Czech Mining Union) in cooperation with EUROMINES – European Association of Mining Industries. Topic of the conference “Extractive development and competitiveness of the extractive industry in the EU”.

Topics of presentation blocks:

- 1. Sustainable development / license to operate

-2. Competitiveness of the extractive industry in the EU

-3. EU legislation and the extractive industry

If you are interested in participating or giving a presentation at the conference on any of the above mentioned topics, please contact the conference organizer.

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4. GEOTHERMAL ENERGY AND CO2 SEQUESTRATION

EVENTS

-2nd Follow-Up Committee meeting of the project PSS-CSS (Policy Support System for Carbon Capture and Storage PSS-CSS). This meeting took place on Friday 10 November in the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and The Arts.

The EFG office attended this meeting, where Kris Piessens contract geologist in the project, and also member of the PE in Geothermal Energy and CO2 Sequestration, was the chair person.

The meeting was focused on the following themes:

Introduction

- **The PSS-CCS project: Progress report, Kris Piessens**
- **Transport of CO₂ in Belgium, Veerle Vandeginste and Kris Piessens**, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences. The topics treated were mainly technicalities of the project as engineering (diameter), cost calculation and route determination.

Session 1: Carbon Capture

- **Inventory of national large sources of CO₂; Construction, content and role of the source inventory, Chris Hendriks, Ecofys.**

- **Capturing CO₂ from industrial sources: current projects; International overview of recent evolution and achievements in capture projects, Philippe Mathieu, Ulg.** Example projects were The Castor project under FP6, Esbjerg (Denmark); and Shell/Statoil EOR/storage project with expected operation at Tjeldbergodden (Norway), starting in North Sea.

Session 2: Carbon Storage

- **Storage options in Flanders: with specific attention to aquifers, David Lagrou, VITO.**
- **Storage options in the Walloon Region, with specific attention to coal deposits, Jean-Marc Baele, FPMs.**
- **Storing CO₂ in coal: Enhanced Coal Bed Methane; Results from the RECOPOL project and application to Belgian context. FPMs, Hugues Legrain.** Overview of the main goals of the RECOPOL project as improvements in knowledge of CO₂/CH₄ adsorption and desorption processes, the study of the long term behaviour, establishment of co-operation on this topic in Europe but also with USA and China.

More information about **PSS-CSS project please visit:**

www.naturalsciences.be/PSS-CCS

-EFG participated in the Geothermal workshop organized by the European Geothermal Energy Council (EGEC) 24 November 2006 in Brussels.

The goal of this workshop was to launch a debate to see if it could be interesting for the Geothermal sector to have a technology platform.

The workshop aimed to show the conditions :

- Firstly : create a steering committee to write a vision report 2030
- Secondly : define a research agenda
- Thirdly : implement this agenda

A representative of the European Commission, DG Research, members of EGEC and Engine Project made presentations.

EFG supports this platform on Geothermal Energy:

- This platform could increase the Geothermal Energy Sector.
- EFG has included geothermal energy as an important item in its Action plan, since the Geological profession is intimately linked with it.
- Its geological experts in these fields have an important capacity and knowledge to develop this renewable energy in Europe.
- The broad network of EFG and its promotion capabilities will be able to improve the visibility and raise awareness of geothermal energy as a relevant energy source.

The decision was taken to have another discussion during the Engine mid-conference at Postdam 10-12/01/2007 and probably another meeting in March-April 2007. The final decision will be taken at the EGC 2007, 29-31/05/2007.

5. JOB OPPORTUNITIES

-Contaminant Hydrogeologist

Offered by: Beresford Blake Thomas (Shropshire , West Midlands) UK

Reference: DH823

Date posted: 01 December 2006

Application deadline: 04 January 2007

Level of appointment: Consultant

Type of contract: Permanent

Responsibilities will include client management / business development, significant technical inputs and delivery of projects with a groundwater protection bias.

Experience: You are likely to have an MSc or PhD, with strengths in projects of Contaminant Hydrogeology / Geochemical / Groundwater protection nature. You will ideally have previous experience within Hydrogeology including the scoping and overseeing of site investigation, site conceptualization, quantitative risk assessment, report writing, project / task management and working closely with clients to secure new work. However, consideration may be given to candidates who possess a strong academic background either at MSc or PhD level and have the skills and knowledge required to undertake this role successfully.