

European Federation of Geologists



GEONEWS December 2007

This Issue contains:

- Info and news from the European Legislation Process related to the Panel of Experts and EFG members:
 1. **GENERAL NEWS**
 2. **NATURAL HAZARDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE**
 3. **GEOHERMAL ENERGY**
 4. **CO2 SEQUESTRATION**
 5. **SOIL**
 6. **HYDROGEOLOGY**
 7. **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

1. GENERAL NEWS

- **Manuel Regueiro y González-Barros was elected president of the European Federation of Geologists (EFG) in a Council meeting of the EFG held 1-2 December 2007, in Brussels.**

In that agenda, Regueiro plans to develop a new outreach strategy to bring the geological profession close to the European society titled "The geology of the citizens" in the framework of UNESCO's International Year of the Planet Earth, that will be celebrated worldwide in 2008.

He also proposed the creation of the World Federation of Professional Geologists to coordinate the actions of professional organizations of geologists worldwide, since the world faces global problems related to the relation of man and Earth such as climatic change or energy supply. The statutes of their organisation will be signed in september in Flagstaff (USA) during the celebration of the 3rd International Professional Geologists Conference organised by the EFG with the American Institute of Professional Geologists and the Canadian Council of Professional Geoscientifics. The European Federation of Geologists represents over 70000 geologists in 22 countries in all Europe.

The new president offered de Paola, President of the Consiglio dei Geologi Italiani, the possibility to participate as a Consellor of the Board of the EFG in order to implement part of his proposed programm in the strategic agenda of the organisation.

Manuel Regueiro is currently Secretary General of the Spanish Official Association of Professional Geologists and Chief of External Affairs of the eological Survey of Spain.

- **Piet Laga Medad of Merit of EFG 2007.**

During the last EFG Council Meeting in Brussels, EFG President give the Medal of Merit of EFG to Piet Laga, Format Geological Survey of Belgium Director, in recognition to the service of the Geologist Proffesion in Europe.

- **IYPE Global Launch Event**

12 and 13 February 2008, Room 1, UNESCO Headquarters, Place Fontenoy, Paris, France
<http://yearofplanetearth.org/index.html>

- On 30 November, the Commission launched its **second calls for proposals for the EU's Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7) for 2007-2013**, with a deadline for submissions fixed on 25 February 2008.

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html

- **New Environmental research web site in CORDIS:** A new service has been implemented in the CORDIS server dedicated to promote and highlight EU funded research related to the FP7 Cooperation theme "Environment (including climate change)". The service is available on

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/environment/home_en.html

2. NATURAL HAZARDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- **EFG is part of the User Executive Body Terrafirma project**
<http://www.terrafirma.eu.com/partners.htm>

About terrafirma: Terrafirma, an ESA GMES project aimed at saving lives, improving safety and reducing economic loss by using the latest technology to measure terrain motion from satellite radar data. Using these data, and in conjunction with national geosciences organisations, the project provides a pan-European ground motion hazard information service in each of the 25 member states of the EU.

Using an archive of satellite data acquired 800km above the Earth's surface it is possible to measure and monitor terrain motion relating to:

- Subsidence
- Mining
- Tunnelling
- Flood risk
- Landslides
- Crustal deformation
- Volcanic deformation

News letter Included is news on production around Europe, the injection of new funds into the project, information on Terrafirma's own validation campaign, and of course news of the 4th Terrafirma User Workshop (November 5th) which happily coincides with the European Spate Agency's own 2007 International Geohazards Week (5th-9th November).

http://www.terrafirma.eu.com/Documents/newsletter/Terrafirma_Newsletter_November2007.pdf

▪ **European Parliament resolution of 14 November 2007 on the regional impact of earthquakes**

The report calls for a series of regulatory and financial measures to strengthen actions to prevent, address and repair damage caused by earthquakes. Such measures are needed to improve coordination between the authorities involved in tackling earthquakes and providing public information, in particular through the establishment of a **centralised prevention and management instrument**.

Prevention, response and repairing damage: the report calls on the European Commission to draw up a **communication** on earthquake hazards, damage prevention, management and repair and a **technical protocol** for joint action by the EU in the event of earthquake disasters, focusing on critical transport, energy, telecommunications and health infrastructures and on the roles of national, regional and local authorities. The Council and the Commission are called upon to take due account of earthquakes when finalising and implementing the revised legislative framework for civil protection.

The Member States are called upon to:

- include the issue of earthquakes in national and regional strategies for sustainable development and to establish national platforms for the discussion of earthquake risk management and civil protection based on integrated analyses of vulnerability, involving different institutional actors and the relevant partners in civil society;
- speed up research so as to prevent damage, manage crises and minimise the scale of impact of disasters in conjunction with actions under the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development;
- consider improving and maintaining ancient buildings and monuments which are of significant historical, cultural, tourist and, by extension, economic importance for many regions of the EU as well as public buildings of strategic importance for civil protection and other critical infrastructures;
- register such buildings and infrastructure and consult the Commission on existing or needed projects and policies which will ensure their protection from earthquakes.

Parliament recognised the special nature of the Mediterranean area and urged the Commission to focus on measures for prevention, education, research, risk management, protection and solidarity at Community level, aiming at a more satisfactory response to the frequent disasters in the region. The Commission was also urged to:

- take due account of earthquakes when finalising and implementing the revised legislative framework for civil protection;
- recommend that the Eurocode 8 instructions be incorporated in the planning regulations of all vulnerable Member States. The report calls on the competent authorities at EU and Member State level to consider whether it is necessary to extend the scope of the implementation of Eurocode 8 to include old buildings in addition to new ones.

Here's the link to access the EP's resolution on the regional impact of earthquakes :
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2007-0507+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

- **The EU Floods Directive has been published.**

The directive 2007/60/ec of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007, on the assessment and management of flood risks has been published in the Official Journal of the European Union (ref L 288/27 dated on 06/11/2007). The purpose of this Directive is to establish a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks, aiming at the reduction of the adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community.

The Directive text is available at:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2007/l_288/l_28820071106en00270034.pdf

3. GEOTHERMAL ENERGY

- **European Union Sustainable Energy Week, EUSEW, 28 January –1 February 2008**

Under the umbrella of the Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign (SEE), the European Commission's Directorate-General for Energy and Transport, the European Institutions, the Slovenian Presidency and major stakeholders concerned with sustainable energy are together putting on the second EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW). It will take place in Brussels, Belgium, and in other cities across Europe from Monday 28 January to Friday 1 February, 2008.

The EUSEW is the key reference for sustainable energy issues in Europe. The events organised during EUSEW cover key topics that highlight the multi-sectoral nature of sustainable energy development and stress the need for everyone to work together towards a common goal; from renewable energy sources to energy efficiency, from EU policy to local action, from distributed energy to planning, from technologies to markets, from legislation to behaviour to education, from buildings to transport.

<http://www.eusew.eu/>

EFG will participate in EUSEW with an stand on Geothermal Energy in collaboration with other organizations.

- **European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan)**

On 22 November, the European Commission will present the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan), which was identified as part of the Energy Package proposed by the Commission in January 2007. This background document describes the current situation regarding energy technology in Europe, and introduces the two mapping exercises carried out by the Commission's Joint Research Centre to support this work.

Making the European energy system more sustainable is one of the greatest challenges facing Europe. The EU responded in 2007 by adopting a package of proposals, paving the way towards a future Energy Policy for Europe. It contains a set of ambitious targets for 2020: (i) reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 20% compared to 1990 levels; (ii) reducing primary energy use by 20% (through energy efficiency); (iii) increasing the level of renewable energy in the EU's overall mix to 20%; (iv) minimum target for biofuels of 10% of vehicle fuel. These targets are achievable if appropriate technological strides are taken. Therefore one of the key elements of the Energy policy for Europe is the preparation of a European Strategic

Energy Plan, which will accelerate the availability of energy technologies and at the same time engage European industry in the process so that it can gain world leadership in this sector.

There is therefore a need to create a *long term* EU framework for energy technology development.

4. CO2 SEQUESTRATION

Report

[CO2 Capture and Storage Projects](#) [5 MB]

This publication is a compilation of synopses of the projects funded under the Sixth Framework Programme in the field of CO2 capture and storage. It gives a comprehensive view of European funded activities in this area. For each project, basic information is provided with regard to the scientific and technical scope, expected impact, the participating organisations and contact points.

5. SOIL

Report on Soil Management: Preserving a Natural Resource with Multiple Functions

Soil fulfils numerous functions and provides several services for humans. Research has shown that sustainable management of this resource is a necessity for preserving food security and water resources, producing biofuels and disposing of waste. This reinforces the need for sustainable agriculture in order to optimise the use of natural resources.

Soil and water resources: there is great competition between agriculture, industry and municipalities for water resources.

Source: R. Lal (2007) « Soils and sustainable agriculture. A review », *Agron. Sustain. Dev.* 27.

Contact: Lal.1@osu.edu

6. HYDROGEOLOGY

EC Directorate General for Research intends to organise a three days Symposium, likely beginning of July 2008, aiming to promote and disseminate achievements resulting from EU funded research projects in the **water sector**. The anticipated main research areas that will be addressed by half day plenary presentations followed by round table discussions and dedicated workshops are:

- Water resources in the future
- Urban water management and services
- Water scarcity and mitigation measures
- Extreme events (droughts, floods)
- Millennium Development Goals
- Sustainable Development

Policy issues, socio-economic aspects as well as international cooperation potential will also be considered in the mentioned research areas. Partners involved on related on-going R&D projects will be contacted soon with additional details and provisions for participation and contribution.

Contact: Avelino Gonzalez (Avelino.Gonzalez-Gonzalez@ec.europa.eu)

ExpoZaragoza 2008 Website:

http://www.expozaragoza2008.es/Home/seccion=3&seccionRaiz=3&seccionDesplegar=3&idoma=en_GB.do

8. JOB OPPORTUNITIES

- **Lunagold are looking for senior mineral exploration geologists in Brazil.**

Job Title: Senior Mineral Exploration Geologists

Location: Brazil

Job Description: Senior Exploration Geologists required to manage gold exploration programs on advanced and development stage projects. Position can be FIFO or based in Brazil.

Portuguese or Spanish speaking an advantage.

Contact: info@lgmineracao.com.br, www.lunagold.com

- **Water Resources Engineer PE**

Location: Atlanta, Georgia

Requirements: Management (Manager/Director of Staff). Experience min.10 years.

Job Description: Senior Engineering position with extensive experience in the design of water and waste water treatment facilities, distribution system and collection system modeling and utility consulting. Person will lead design team in the production of design calculations, process selection, hydraulic profiles, P&ID and design development documents; lead in the preparation of detailed construction documents; and assist construction management staff during construction activities.

Details at: <http://www.hydrology-jobs.com>

- **Senior Hydrogeologist**

Location: Naas, Ireland

Requirements: Management (Manager/Director of Staff)

Job Description: Senior Hydrogeologist experienced in managing staff, projects and business.

Details at: <http://www.hydrology-jobs.com>

- **Hidrologist**

Location: East Anglia, United Kingdom

Requirements: Mid Career (2 + years of experience)

Job Description: You will assist in the development of waste sectors including Flood Risk Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment. The ideal candidate would be responsible for the day-to-day management of existing projects, client liaison and the development of new business. Experience in the practical application of flood-based hydraulic models (preferably MIKE11) and the Flood Estimation Handbook techniques is required and the candidate should have a firm appreciation of river mechanics and hydraulic modelling. Ref: HJ/JP/15450

Details at: <http://www.hydrology-jobs.com>

- **Water Resources Specialist**

Location: Central South, United Kingdom

Requirements: Mid Career (2+ years of experience)

Job Description: The team covers a broad range of hydrogeological activities including groundwater resource evaluation and development; wetland hydrogeology and impact of abstraction; tunnel, mine and quarry hydrogeology; groundwater modeling and water quality and contamination. Projects are UK and internationally based. The role will encompass technical contribution, including provision of numerical modelling, programming and software solutions to water resources projects. Due to the nature of the business, international travel can be required. Ref HJ/AS/18601

Details at: <http://www.hydrology-jobs.com>

- **Groundwater Modeler**

Location: South West, United Kingdom

Requirements: Mid Career (2+ years of experience). MSc qualified in Hydrogeology or a related subject, at least 1 years' experience in a commercial environment, show significant experience in groundwater modelling, have experience in direct client liaison and possibly contract supervision, have proven technical report writing skills with an excellent command of the English language, be able to work effectively as part of a team, need to demonstrate a mature and confident outlook, be an excellent communicator, hold a current driving licence.

Job Description: The postholder will be based within the company's Water and Environment Department, which specialises in groundwater resource development and protection. A key part of their work is the installation and management of groundwater supplies, particularly for the bottled water industry, but also for a wide variety of other water users. Duties could include developing new groundwater models, in Feflow, dealing with clients and reporting. There will also be opportunities to get involved in the wider range of water resource work carried out by the department. Ref: HJ/AW/17801.

Details at: <http://www.hydrology-jobs.com>