

European Federation of Geologists

GEONEWS February 2008

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1. GENERAL NEWS

EFG Workshop during the 33rd International Geological Congress, Oslo, Norway 2008 6-14 August:

Issues for geologists in the 21st century – mitigation of man's influence and serving society's needs.

Geologists have an important role to play in the world's future, but are we aware of our role and our responsibilities?

Consider climate change and the related increase in frequency and impact of natural disasters: geology is a fundamental element in most natural hazards. Improved insight and use of geological knowledge can assist in significantly mitigating the risk. Society needs geologists for CO₂ sequestration to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Consider the continuously growing need for energy around the globe: we need geologists for exploration, development and exploitation of geothermal energy, oil and gas, coal bed methane, et cetera.

Consider the growing shortage of fresh water: geologists are required to allocate fresh water aquifers.

And our roles in ensuring control of environmental effects such as air quality and ground water, and in engineering geology for construction of buildings, tunnels and roads.

Questions we should ask ourselves are: how to communicate our knowledge and skills to society, and especially to National governments, European Commission and United Nations? How to present our services, such that they become widely known and acknowledged? How to become closely involved in drafting regulations on land-use management, energy resources, ground water, and environmental impact assessments and so on?

An important element in this process is to work towards a better communication and collaboration between the scientific and professional geologists and to improve our communication to society.

This workshop will address our role to society by means of several examples; it will address the issue of communication between scientists, professionals, society and the government; and how to improve education, public awareness and societal responsibility. Discussion will be an important element of this workshop.

Geologists are invited to contribute by means of presenting examples of above-mentioned topics, in which the role of geology has clearly been proven or clearly been underestimated. And contributions are requested that will address questions on how to improve our visibility and our communication with the government to serve our society.

Headings for papers in the EFG Workshop in Oslo

1. Societal benefits of geology

- 1.1. Great contributions of geology to mankind
- 1.2. Geological mapping: the foundation of development
- 1.3. Humanitarian geology: how geology can help development

2. Geological legislation: helping the change to happen

- 2.1. Geologists in policy and geological policies
- 2.2. Natural hazards in planning policies: Global examples

3. Georesources: the limits to growth

- 3.1. Minerals resources global supply
- 3.2. Societal benefits of mining
- 3.3. Geo-energies: outlook for a change of the global paradigm
- 3.4. Role of geologists in providing water supply
- 3.5. Geological Heritage: past, present and future

4. Geological professional associations: role and global experiences

- 4.1. European Federation of Geologists
- 4.2. The new World Federation of Geologists

5. Educating in and of geology

- 5.1. Geological outreach: seeking social acceptance
- 5.2. Improving earth sciences performance and professional and scientific geologists' production.

Abstracts of not more than 200 words should be submitted to the EFG Office before 29 February 2008 at: efgbrussels@gmail.com
Further enquiries to participate can also be made to this email address.

EFG Board request use your own networks distribute this invitation (i.e. NA networks). EFG Board would like to have some free back about EurGeols, EFG Experts, and EFG Delegates, planning to attend the 33rdIGC, in order to have a more active contribution from all of you. Please contact the EFG Office if you planning to attend this conference. Thank you for your support on this matter.

2. COAST MANAGEMENT

EFG- TAIEX Workshop 2008, Palanga, Lithuania, 7-9 April 2008

Sea Level Rise, Climate Change, changing processes and sustainable management of the low coasts of the Baltic states and Poland.

Organized by the Technical Assistance Information Exchange Instrument of the European Commission (Taix) in co-operation with the Lithuanian Geological Society, Geological Society of Latvia, Geological Society of Estonia, European Federation of Geologists EUCC – The Coastal Union and ProGEO – WG3.

Further information: Drs Hanneke van den Ancker, coordinator Geodiversity EFG, Geoheritage NL, info@geoheritage.nl and Grazina Skridlaite, skridlaite@geo.lt.

Taix beneficiary countries on this workshop: Baltic States, Poland and Russia

The aim of the workshop is to present and to discuss the current state of implementation of EU legislation and practical initiatives for a sustainable development and management of the coastal areas threatened by sea level rise and other climate change-related problems. Coastal erosion is already a widespread and serious problem in managing coasts in the Baltic area (see: www.eurosion.org).

The workshop includes the following sessions:

Session A: Setting: Managing sea level rise over the centuries

Session B: Overview of the situation in the low coastal areas in the Baltic region

Session C: Sustainable techniques & research on sea level rise - climate change

Session D: Tools and Research for changing processes and habitats

Session E: Legislation, organization and raising public awareness and the role of NGO's

3. HYDROGEOLOGY

European Federation of Geologists International Conference, Athens, Greece, 30th May 2008.

Geology and Surface Water and Groundwater Management: Resources, Risk and Regulations (3Rs)

The Conference will cover two sessions:

Session 1: Surface water: Channelled Flow (Rivers, Streams, Creeks) and Laminar Flow

Session 2: Groundwater: Interflows, Perched, Shallow, Deep and Coastal Aquifers

The next EFG communication will include full conference programme.

Further enquiries to participate can also be made to this email address: egfbrussels@gmail.com

4. GEOTHERMAL AND CO2 SEQUESTRATION

EFG Stand in the European Union Sustainable Energy Week, EUSEW, 28 January –1 February 2008, European Commission, Brussels

The European Federation of Geologists participated in the European Union Sustainable Energy Week 2008 with the stand Geology and Sustainable Energy. <http://www.eusew.eu/>

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 together put on the second EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW).

Some thousands of participants, including politicians, civil servants, business people and conservation groups from around the globe gathered there. Debates, presentations and stands reviewed actions in Sustainable Energy in Europe. You can watch live some of the events at the following web address: <http://www.managenergy.tv/>

In the context of the event, EFG prepared a Stand in collaboration with EFG Panel of Experts on Geothermal Energy and CO₂ Sequestration. The topic of the Stand was **Geology and Sustainable Energy**. Under this topic the stand covered two main themes:

- **Geothermal Resources in Europe**, posters in collaboration with European Geothermal Energy Council, EGEC. The poster presented the Geothermal Resources in Europe in relation to the temperature basins and the different technologies for electrical power, district heating and shallow geothermal.
- **CO₂ Capture and Storage**, poster in collaboration with Geological Survey of Belgium. The poster presented different kinds of Geological Storage, problems and safety.



We distributed information about the EFG: EFG leaflet, EFG Members, EurGeol. Title, European Geologist Magazine, and EFG position paper on these topics.

Press release on Directive on the promotion of the use of renewable energy sources.

Document:

http://www.eurogeologists.de/cms/images/content/EUWSE08/Press_release_RES_Directive.pdf

EFG, EGEC and EuroGeoSurvey welcome the proposal tabled on 23/01/08 by the European Commission for a Directive on the promotion of the use of renewable energy sources.

Geothermal energy is the heat beneath the surface of the Earth. It is a sustainable, renewable, nearly infinite energy source, delivering heat and power 24 hours a day throughout the year and available all over Europe. It is environmentally friendly and contributes to the reduction of CO2 emissions. It uses very little land, has almost no visual impact and reduces Europe's vulnerability to energy imports. It has considerable economic potential, can foster significant development of enterprises and related job creation.

Our associations jointly call for some improvements of the Directive proposal:

1. The definition of geothermal energy
2. Accreditation of installers must include specific criteria for the certification of shallow geothermal installers.

A Manifesto will develop proposals on these issues and will present the actions needed to foster the contribution of Geothermal Energy to the targets set in the directive proposal.

This document has been mentioned in reference to the future of Geothermal Energy by Mr. Óssur Skarphéðinsson, Icelandic Minister of Industry, during the opening remark on the event organized by the Ministry of Industry in Iceland, Geothermal Energy Benefits and Potential, Friday 1 2008, and attended by Mr. Andris Piebalgs, European Commission, Commissioner for Energy.

EFG Position Paper on Carbon Capture and Geological Storage.

Document:

http://www.eurogeologists.de/cms/images/content/EUWSE08/CCS_position_paper.pdf

The European Federation of Geologists (EFG), and especially its panel of experts on Geothermal Energy and Carbon Capture and Storage, emphasizes that Carbon Capture and geological Storage (CCS) should be strongly promoted, as it is an important and direct path towards a fully sustainable energy future. Document attached

During EUSEW, EFG expert, Kris Piessens, participated on the workshop on CCS. EFG PE on CO2 Sequestration has been invited to apply for membership to the ZEP-CCS Technology Platform. Further information: Kris.piessens@naturalsciences.be

During the exhibition we received support from EGEC staff and Belgium Geological Survey. The stand received very high attention from the EUSEW visitor, including Commissioner Piebalgs, Transport and Energy Commissioner and Mr González Finat, Director DG Transport and Energy, photo below.

