

European Federation of Geologists

GEONEWS July 2007

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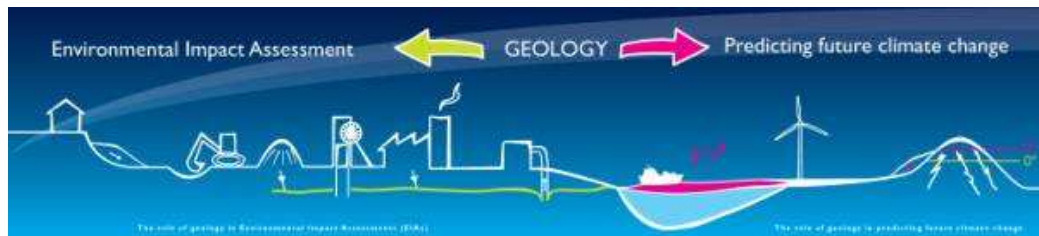
1.GENERAL NEWS

News

-European Federation of Geologists Stand 1 on the European Commission's Green Week 2007: "Geology and Environmental Change", June 12-15, Brussels.

The European Federation of Geologists participated in the European Commission's Green Week 2007 (June 12-15) with the a stand on the exhibition: "Geology and Environmental Change". <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/>

This year the theme of the annual event was "Past Lessons, Future Challenges". Some 4000 participants, including politicians, civil servants, business people and conservation groups from around the globe gathered there. Debates, presentations and stands reviewed actions in environmental policy to date, and considered how the lessons of the past can be applied to current and emerging environmental problems, such as climate change and growing pressure on resources.



In the context of the event, EFG prepared a Stand "Geology and Environmental Change" in collaboration with the EFG PE on Environmental Impact Assessment, coordinated by Mr Peter Whiteside. The stand presented the role of geology in Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and in predicting future climate change.

- The role of geology in Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs): To develop a comprehensive view of the environmental impact of a project we need to

understand the geology of the site. Geological study by a professional geologist is therefore an important component of EIAs.

The role of geology in predicting future climate change: Geological records of past climate change. Studying and understanding these geological records helps us to differentiate between natural and man-made effects on climate – which is vital for predictions of future climate changes.

In order to present these roles of the geology, the stand included 6 posters with examples from Europe.

In the context of the Environmental Impact Assessment:

- Predicting contamination rate changes by modeling groundwater (Serravalle Scrivia), Italy. Provided by CNG, Italy. Authors: Puppini U., Remonti M., Restagno S., Trimboli M.
- Sustainable use of groundwater, and groundwater pumping in a dynamic environment, Finland. Provided by YKL, Seppo Gehor. Authors: Okkonen J. and Klöve B.
- Environmental geological map of Hungary. Provided by MFT, Author: Sharek P.

In the context of predicting climate change:

- The impact of the sea level changes on the Belgium continental shelf: the Quaternary geological evolution. Provided by UBLG, Belgique, Dirk de Coster. Authors: Mieke Mathys I, De Batist M.I, Baeteman C.
- Reconstruction of ancient climate clues to the future, Sweden. Provided by SN, Vivi Vajda. Authors: Anjar J., Fernandez M., Jansson I.M., et al.
- Climate change impact on the region alpine, Switzerland. Provided by CHGEOL. Author: Giuseppe Franciosi, Geotest.



We distributed information about the EFG: EFG leaflet, EFG Members, EurGeol Title, EFG Manifestos, European Geologist Magazine. Information about Terrafirma Project was also distributed during the exhibition. During the exhibition we received support from the Swedish EFG Member, Ida M Jansson from the Lund University in the stand.

As a conclusion of the EFG's performance in the Green Week 2007, a leaflet with the message of the stand was prepared and distributed during the exhibition, as well as power point presentation.

-The European Ombudsman

Businesses, associations and organizations with a registered office in the European Union can complain to the European Ombudsman about maladministration in the EU institutions and bodies.

An electronic version of this complaint form is available on the Ombudsman's website: <http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/>

Future events

-Euroclay 2007, 22-27 July, Aveiro, Portugal.

The scientific programme of the event will be held in sessions, covering the following topics: crystal chemistry and structure; physical and chemical properties; colloidal properties and surface chemistry; genesis and synthesis; geology, mineralogy and geochemistry; paleoreconstruction; geotechnics; archaeology; soils and sediments; organoclays; environmental interactions; industrial applications; teaching clays; history of clay science; clay minerals and health; clay isotope geochemistry.

For more information please visit: <http://www.euroclay2007.com/>

2. EDUCATION-GEOLOGY

-DG EAC published the second Call for Proposals to test and develop the EQF on 25 May.

The Call aims to support projects in developing and testing the EQF, including national and sectoral qualifications frameworks. Details of the Call can be accessed at:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/static/en/llp/eqf/index_en.htm

Deadline for despatch of applications is 31 August 2007

http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/educ/eqf/index_en.html

- Interesting report for the EFG WG Bologna Process. Science Education: Now. A Renewed Pedagogy for the Future of Europe. (Please find attached the report from European Commission Directorate-General for Research)

Letter from Mr Jean-Michel Baer, Director, Science and Society Directorate European Commission – DG Research.

Brussels,

12/06/2007

Dear Colleague,

In April 2006, Michel Rocard (former French Prime Minister, and MEP) contacted Janez Potocnik the EU Commissioner for science and research to draw attention to a European initiative which he considered as showing enormous potential for increasing young people's interest in science and mathematics.

Mr Rocard's concern, and indeed that of policy makers across Europe, was that the declining interest for certain science studies among young people will stand in the way of the emergence of a truly knowledge-based society both in terms of Europe's need for more scientists and the need to ensure that all young people develop key analytical skills at school that will prepare them for the future - whatever they choose to do.

Within the European Commission both the Directorate Generals for Research and for Education and Culture are working closely together on this issue, and so Janez Potocnik and his Commissioner colleague Ján Figel', who is responsible for education, training culture and youth, invited Mr Rocard to chair a small group of experts to see what action could be taken. Indeed, the group was mandated to address a very specific question: are there examples of effective action, and can they be scaled up and have significant broader impact across Europe.

The work of this group is now accomplished, and it is my pleasure to attach to this letter a copy of their report. It makes a number of recommendations ranging from the need for collective action, how improvement in science teaching can be brought about, and what could be done at all levels: local, national and European. The main message, however, is that we need to revise significantly the way that science is taught in our schools.

It is my hope therefore that this report will act as a catalyst that will stimulate debate and a commitment for real action among policy makers at the highest levels within the European Union.

Yours faithfully, Jean-Michel Baer

A great deal of additional information on this report is available at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.topic&id=1100&lang=1>

3. HYDROGEOLOGY

News

-EC initiative on water scarcity and droughts

The Commission intends to issue by July 2007 a communication that will focus on drought events and on long-term water unbalances. The communication will aim to identify possible technical, social or legislative options to mitigate the impacts of such events.

So far, a first interim report on this issue has been drafted in collaboration with an expert's group. These preliminary results have been submitted to a Stakeholders Forum for consultation (this Forum has been invited to contribute) .

Additional information as well as the first interim report and the Stakeholders contributions are available on http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/quantity/scarcity_en.htm

Moreover, the EC services are participating in the Waste Water Reuse Working Group established recently under the Mediterranean Joint Process Phase II, a collaboration between the Mediterranean component of the EU Water Initiative and the Common Implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD).

The objectives of this waste water reuse activity are to:

- assess the status of the situation with regard to treated waste water reuse in each of the EU Member States and non-EU countries participating in this activity,
- get an overview of the issues at stake (definitions, scope, safety and sustainability) and

prepare the ground for potential more specific actions to be taken at the EU level.

Information regarding the Waste Water Reuse Working Group is available on <http://www.semide.net/topics/WaterReuse/>

Source: 7th Framework Newsletter, Issue N° 3.

Future events

-Call for Abstracts - Hydrogeological Research, Capacity Building, and Teaching in the Developing World. Topical Session for Geological Society of America National Meeting, 28-31 October 2007, Denver, USA.

Rationale:

We encourage abstracts that showcase 1) hydrogeological research efforts in poorer, economically-developing countries with an emphasis on enhancing and developing safe and sustainable drinking-water supplies and 2) bringing students, faculty, and professionals together in the developing-world to produce educational advancement on hydrogeological and/or water resource issues in the field. We are especially interested in studies that address the special challenges inherent in conducting research, making tangible improvements, coordinating efforts between groups, and/or working with students in economically under-developed countries.

Short Description:

Hydrogeological research and educational experiences in economically-developing countries. Research emphasis on enhancing safe, sustainable drinking-water supplies. Educational emphasis on bringing students, faculty, and professionals together in the developing-world to advance understanding of water resource issues.

Convener/Advocate(s):

David K. Kreamer
e-mail: kreamerd@nevada.edu
Telephone: (702) 895-3553

Jonathan Levy
e-mail: levyj@muohio.edu
Telephone: (513) 529-1947

Publications

-List of recent available publications - EU Report Series

- Integrated Evaluation for Sustainable River Basin Governance - ADVISOR
Editors: N. Videira, G. Kallis, P. Antunes and R. Santos
<http://www.iwapublishing.com/template.cfm?name=isbn1843391481>
- Urban Water Resources Toolbox - AISUWRS
Editors: L. Wolf, B. Morris and S. Burn
<http://www.iwapublishing.com/template.cfm?name=isbn1843391384>
- Integrated Deliberative Decision Processes for Water Resources Planning and Evaluation - ADVISOR
Editors: G. Kallis, N. Videira, P. Antunes and R. Santos
<http://www.iwapublishing.com/template.cfm?name=isbn1843391678>
- Water and Liberalisation - European Water Scenarios - EUROMARKET
Editors: M. Finger, J. Allouche, P. LuÃs-Manso

<http://www.iwapublishing.com/template.cfm?name=isbn1843391139>

- Comparative Evaluation of Sludge Reduction Routes - W.I.R.E.S.
Editor: P. Ginestet
<http://www.iwapublishing.com/template.cfm?name=isbn1843391236>
- Computer Aided Rehabilitation of Sewer and Storm Water Networks - CARE-S
Editor: S. Saegrov
<http://www.iwapublishing.com/template.cfm?name=isbn1843391155>
- Computer Aided Rehabilitation for Water Networks - CARE-W
Editor: S. Saegrov
<http://www.iwapublishing.com/template.cfm?name=isbn1843390914>

4. ENGINEERING GEOLOGY

Future Events

-11th Congress of the International Society for Rock Mechanics, 9-13 July 2007, Lisbon, Portugal.

The Sociedade Portuguesa de Geotecnia (SPG), the Portuguese National Group of the ISRM, will host the 11th ISRM Congress, to be held in Lisbon.

In the past 50 years, Rock Mechanics has established itself as a recognized subject in Geotechnical Engineering. Now, 40 years later, and at the same location where the 1st ISRM Congress was held, SPG proposes to review the evolution of Rock Mechanics, and to define new perspectives and developments in Rock Engineering.

In order to widen the contribution of all participants, the Congress format shall comprise parallel sessions and workshops, so that as many as possible papers may be orally presented. State-of-the-art presentations of technological developments shall also be featured.

Session Themes:

- Rock Engineering and Environmental Issues
- The Path from Characterization to Modeling
- Slopes, Foundations and Open Pit Mining
- Tunnel, Caverns and Underground Mining
- Earthquake Engineering and Rock Dynamics
- Petroleum Engineering and Hydrocarbon Storage
- Safety Evaluation and Risk Management

For more information please visit:

http://www.isrm2007.org/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1

5. EARTH OBSERVATION TECHNIQUES

Future Events

-ECO-IMAGINE Training Course: Geospatial technologies, 23-28 July 2007, Aberdeen, United Kingdom.

Set within the environmental context of the North East coastline of Scotland, this 6-day training course will introduce participants to the role of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and related geospatial technologies to Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM).

This event is organized by University of Aberdeen in collaboration with GISIG and ICCOPS.

For more information, please contact:

Valeria Granelli, GISIG & ICCOPS Staff: info@iccops.it

Web: <http://www.semide.net/thematicdirs/events/sev375185>

-International Geoscience and remote sensing symposium 2007: Sensing and Understanding our Planet, 23-27 July 2007, Barcelona, Spain.

The theme of this year symposium -"Sensing and Understanding our Planet"- suggests what remote sensing scientific activity should ultimately achieve: Information gathered by all sensors and techniques must be wisely used mainly to understand our Earth. This will improve prediction of natural disasters or global climate change and provide tools to prevent their consequences.

Moreover, understanding Earth is needed to devise ways for using natural resources in a sustained way. Goal 7 of the UN millennium goals commits us to "Ensure environmental sustainability" and this is not just a nice sentence. According to the UN report, achieving the goal will require greater attention to the plight of the poor, whose day-to-day subsistence is often directly linked to the natural resources. As experts on the leading-edge technologies of Earth observation, we should play a prominent role in achieving this goal, as IGARSS is the forum where tools and technological advances for understanding our planet are presented. This is our contribution to the important task of assuring people of all around the world access to resources for their subsistence without endangering the fragile equilibrium of our planet.

For more information, please contact:

E-mail: igarss07@cimne.upc.es

Phone: +34 93 401 74 41 ; +34 93 401 65 17

Web: <http://www.igarss07.org/frontal/Inicio.asp>

6. JOB OPPORTUNITIES

-Senior Hydrogeologist vacancy

O'Callaghan Moran & Associates, Environmental and Hydrogeological Consultants has a vacancy for an experienced hydrogeologist to work in a variety of groundwater projects including groundwater resource assessments, pumping tests, hydrogeological site investigation, contaminated land investigation. The successful candidate will also be involved in OCM project work involving the implementation of the Water Framework Directive in Ireland. OCM is responsible for implementing the groundwater aspects of the WFD in the Southeastern, Southwestern, Neagh Bann and Northwestern River Basin Districts.

The position will be based in OCM's offices in Cork but will involve a significant amount of field work throughout Ireland. A minimum of four years experience of hydrogeological site investigations is required preferably in consultancy with Project Management experience. .

A generous remuneration package commensurate with qualifications and experience is available.

Curriculum Vitae including contact details should be forwarded to:

Sean Moran at Sean@ocallaghanmoran.com

-Geologist vacancy

Northwestern Mineral Ventures (TSXV, OTCBB and Frankfurt, Germany) with headquarters in Toronto and Vancouver Canada) is an emerging international exploration company with an experienced, well regarded and highly technical management team. The company is focused on uranium and has a highly prospective portfolio of properties located in Africa and Canada. Northwestern is searching for an exploration geologist for its Uranium Exploration permits located in Niger (Africa).

The candidate should at minimum

- be a graduate as geologist 1st cycle of university
- have a minimum of 2 years of professional experiences
- be fluent in French and have good knowledge in English - ideally
- be used to the usual software (Office suite, GIS)

The job will comprise the following tasks:

- Participate in the exploration programs elaboration
- Exploration program supervision with Niger local crew
- Database maintenance
- Frequent field trips to the mining properties

This job will require frequent missions in Niger and trips to Canada (Montréal) and is available immediately. This opportunity is not restricted to residents of Canada. All qualified applicants will be considered for this important position for Northwestern. An attractive remuneration package will exist for the right candidate.

Interested applicants can contact Barb O'Neil at oneilconsulting@dccnet.com for further information. We look forward to hearing from you.

We invite all members to forward items of news or general interest to fellow members to efgbrussels@gmail.com