

European Federation of Geologists

GEONEWS November 2006

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1. RESOURCES AND RESERVES – MINERALS AND THEIR SUSTAINABLE USE

EVENTS

-TAIEX seminar "EU Legislation as it affects Mining", Tallinn, 30/11-2/12/2006. Organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment of Estonia, Tallinn Technical University and Society of Mining Professors.

The aim of this meeting is to

- provide information and knowledge about EU legislation with special emphasis on mining related matters,
- share information about national approaches to transfer EU regulations –especially mining related – into national law and practice,
- stimulate knowledge and best practice transfer between the different EU member states, their governmental representatives, mining industry and academia.

For further questions, please contact:

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2. RESOURCES AND RESERVES – OIL & GAS AND THEIR SUSTAINABLE USE

-Oil and gas job search. This is an interesting job site for employers and candidates.

www.oilandgasjobsearch.com

3. HYDROGEOLOGY

-Piet F.M. Verdonschot (2006) « Evaluation of the use of Water Framework Directive typology descriptors, reference sites and spatial scale in macroinvertebrate stream typology », *Hydrobiologia* 556: 39-58.

New Improvements Proposed for the Water Framework Directive.

The aim of this study was to test the effect of the Water Framework Directive typology descriptors on a macroinvertebrate-based stream typology, the use of reference sites in comparison to the use of degraded sites, and both degraded and reference sites. The EU research projects AQEM* and STAR* provided 1660 samples of 48 stream types sampled all over the major geographical gradients in Europe.

Contact:

Piet F. M. Verdonschot

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AQEM: The AQEM consortium has developed an assessment system for streams in eight European countries based on benthic macroinvertebrates. <http://www.aqem.de/index.php>*

STAR: Standardization of River Classifications. The Star project is a research project supported by the European Commission under the Fifth Framework Programme and contributing to the implementation of the Key Action "Sustainable Management and Quality of Water" within the Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development Programme. <http://www.eu-star.at/frameset.htm>*

4. NATURAL HAZARDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

-Obligatory maps of natural risks in Spain.

After many negotiations with the **Spanish Ministry of Housing**, the ***ICOG** report that the Cabinet of Ministers, at their meeting of 14 July has approved the sending to Parliament of "**The Soil Law Project**". This document is based on European related law, on "The Citizen's Guide to Geologic Risks" and the ***IGME's** document entitled "Economic Impact of Geological Risks in Spain". This project concerning soil law explains, in one of its points, the obligation of including a **map of natural risks** in any report about environment sustainability in any urban action.

The Permanent Commission of the **ICOG** Council values very highly these legislative initiatives that will protect citizens in the future from natural catastrophies, through **the provision of risk maps in planning strategy.**

The **ICOG** Council, jointly with the Delegations, intend to draft a document called "*Geologists Proposal for the improvement of the Autonomies and Municipal Administration*", which they hope will be included in the electoral programmes for the autonomies and municipal elections in May 2007.

**ICOG, Spanish Association of Geologists, (Ilustre Colegio Oficial de Geólogos).*

**IGME, Spanish Geological Survey, (Instituto Geológico y Minero de España).*

EVENTS

-European Week of Regions and Cities, "Public and Private Partners for Growth and Jobs", 9-12 October 2006, **Brussels, Belgium.** Organized jointly by the Committee of the Regions and European Commission (DG Regional Policy).

EFG participated in the section entitled "**Investing in sustainable use of resources and environmental technologies**". The seminars were:

-"**A better environment of sustainable development**": Main conclusion and recommendation from the strategic evaluation on environment and risk prevention workshop. We found an interesting presentation from Joint Research Centre, European Commission, "**Pan-European assessment of weather driven natural risks**".

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/od2006/doc/articles/lavalle_article.pdf

-"**Sustainable energy for sustainable growth - Boosting the regional economy**". The main topic of the presentations was Bio Fuels in regional initiatives.

5. GEOTHERMAL ENERGY AND CO2 SEQUESTRATION

-European Commission publishes EU Action Plan on Energy Efficiency.

The Action Plan will address the unprecedented energy challenges facing the EU and set Europe on course for a 20% energy saving by 2020.

It will make the EU less dependent on fossil fuels, address climate change, boost competitiveness, and could save over 100 billion Euro per year by 2020.

The Action Plan includes a series of cost-effective priority measures which will be put into action during the next six years. The Intelligent Energy Europe II programme will be designed to support this process.

Energy Efficiency Action Plan and background information:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/action_plan_energy_efficiency/index_en.htm

-Framework for Intelligent Energy - Europe II adopted.

The EU Member States adopted on 12 October 2006 a decision to establish the European Competitiveness and Innovation Programme 2007-2013 .

Around 20% of the 3.2 billion budget envelope of this programme will be allocated to the Intelligent Energy - Europe II programme. The concrete sum currently discussed is around the 730 million mark.

Press release:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/misc/91292.pdf

Full text of the decision:

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/06/st03/st03622.en06.pdf>

EVENTS

-Clean Energy Investment Showcase; new developments in clean energy technology, 23 November, London, UK. This must-attend event will showcase some of the most innovative and exciting developments in clean energy technology to potential investors.

Organized jointly by Environmental Finance Publications and the Centre for Sustainable Engineering, this one-day conference will highlight new developments in clean energy technology and their importance to industry, the financial sector and government.

<http://www.environmental-finance.com/conferences/2006/CEIS/intro.htm>

6. GENERAL NEWS

-Geology in Europe in second-level education

EFG has been working on a manifesto to reinforce the presence of modules related to Geology in second level education.

This manifesto proposal will emphasize the importance of geology in education. New educational systems should include geology, since many of the greatest problems that affect us (climatic change, natural desertification, catastrophes...) are involved with Earth Sciences. Everyone should be well-enough informed to be able to deal sensitively and responsibly with these problems.

EFG proposes elaborate a questionnaire to the different National Associations to find out the details of the situation in Europe.

As an example, ICOG has drawn our attention to the current situation in Spain. The new Statutory Law of Education (LOE) was approved and the MEC* is elaborating the programmes of the common lessons for the state. This law has a very important gap concerning Earth Sciences .

The ICOG's opinions are:

-The interest of young people in science diminishes course by course, and consequently, the number of students who start scientific degrees in the universities decreases, especially in Geology.

-At this moment there is a delicate situation for Geology in Spain; ICOG propose a fast mobilization of all those who are concerned about this problem in the country.

MEC: Spanish Ministry of Education and Science (Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia).*

**ICOG: Spanish Association of Geologists, (Ilustre Colegio Oficial de Geólogos).*

EVENTS

-Letter from the president of The Institute of Geologists of Ireland.

Dear Member,

11 October 2006

You will have recently received the programme for this year's IGI conference, which is entitled:

'Ireland's Natural Resources 2006 -2020: Developing Our Assets'

The Conference committee has gathered together an excellent panel of speakers to debate this important subject with high profile contributors from both the private and public sectors.

This year's conference covers the broad spectrum of areas where most of the IGI members and other geo-scientists practice in Ireland today. The Conference content will be of interest both to the geological community and other professions that regularly interact with geo-scientists either as practitioners or regulators.

The annual Conference is critical to continuing to raise the profile of geo-scientists nationally.

The annual Conference is also an important funding opportunity for the IGI, which allows the Institute to maintain its activities in support of its members.

I would encourage you to attend the Conference on November 15 in Dublin Castle and to take part in this important national debate.

Whether or not you are able to be there, I would ask you to encourage other interested parties to attend and so ensure that this year's Conference is as successful as previous years' events.

I look forward to welcoming you and your colleagues at Dublin Castle on the 15 November.

Yours Sincerely,
Gareth

EurGeol Gareth Ll. Jones PGeo
President IGI

7.JOB OPPORTUNITIES

-JOB OPPORTUNITY AT BMA GEOSERVICES LTD.

BMA GeoServices Ltd. is looking for a specialist in the investigation and remediation of Brownfield sites in Ireland. The selected candidate will be based in the Dublin Office of BMA, currently located in Shankill, Co. Dublin.

The candidate would ideally have:

- a B.Sc. in the Geosciences and/or higher Degree/Diploma in Environmental Geology;
- 3 to 5 years of proven experience in the field of contaminated land assessment;
- He/she should be familiar with remedial techniques such as pump and treat, soil excavation and off-site disposal, vapour extraction and enhanced in-situ bioremediation etc.;
- good writing skills and a proven ability to run a project from start to finish;
- a full clean driving licence.

Candidates should send a concise CV and cover letter (incl. availability) by email to Bruno Teillard at: bteillard@bma.ie

For any additional information, please contact Bruno Teillard by email.

-INTERNATIONALLY RECRUITED MINERAL COMMODITY MARKETS EXPERT -improved procurement practices and granting of concessions in Liberia"

The above project has a planned duration of **4 calendar months**, starting end of October 2006 (indicative starting date). **We are looking for the One (1) expert of Category I***

Profile required:

- The expert will be an **experienced mineral commodity market expert**, with a university degree or equivalent in Economics, Law, Business Administration, Financial Management or any other directly relevant qualification.
- **Knowledge of international commodity markets management is essential, and a financial background is preferable.**
- **A minimum of 15 years experience in the mineral commodity markets operations.**
- **Previous experience as a financial/mineral trade expert in a developing country, preferably Africa**, is preferred. Knowledge of EDF procedures is an advantage.
- Fluency in English is required as well as full computer literacy, excellent reading and writing skills and good communication and report skills.

The expert should have no connection (personal or professional) with the Government of Liberia or associated companies (past, present or immediate) to be covered by this assignment.

Additionally they should not have personal or professional connections with officials of the Government of Liberia. Any possible conflict of interest should be declared immediately.

***Eligible nationalities: EU 15 and ACP countries**

Conditions

-480 eur. per day honoraria for 88 w. days = 42 240 EUR

-206 eur. per diem for 120 days = 24 720 EUR

-1500 EUR per one flight

-600 EUR for local travel (most of it should be covered from the per diem)

Paid insurance for his/her stay in Liberia.

If you are interested in this position and feel you meet the requirements of the job, please contact:

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