



IAPGeoethics Newsletter n. 5 (2016)

This is the official newsletter of the IAPG. It contains news about events, initiatives, publications on Geoethics by the IAPG.

The International Association for Promoting Geoethics (IAPG) is a multidisciplinary, scientific community and aims at creating awareness about application of ethical principles to theoretical and practical aspects of Geosciences.

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The IAPG is legally recognized as a not-for-profit association, has 1,326 members in 107 countries in 5 continents, and can count on a network of **23 national sections**.

Send any kind of information about Geoethics that could be published in the IAPG webpages to: iapgeoethics@aol.com

International Website: <http://www.geoethics.org>

Blog: <http://iapgeoethics.blogspot.it>

IAPG newsletter collection: <http://www.geoethics.org/newsletter.html>

Membership

Becoming an IAPG member is easy! Fill in the form in the IAPG website at <http://www.geoethics.org/membership.html>. No fee is required at this time.



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CAPE TOWN STATEMENT ON GEOETHICS



The **Cape Town Statement on Geoethics** was prepared during the 35th IGC – International Geological Congress in Cape Town, South Africa (27 August – 4 September 2016).
Drafting Committee: Giuseppe Di Capua, Silvia Peppoloni, Peter Bobrowsky.

With the contribution of: Nic Bilham, Martin Bohle, Andy Clay, Emilia Hermelinda Lopera Parejas, David Mogk.

Approved by the IAPG Executive Council on 26th October 2016.

IAPG considers the 35th IGC - International Geological Congress, held in Cape Town (South Africa), the event that opens a new phase for Geoethics and for the Association. In order to celebrate this passage, the IAPG Drafting Committee, formed by Giuseppe Di Capua, Peter Bobrowsky and Silvia Peppoloni, has put together the "**Cape Town Statement on Geoethics**" (CTSG), a document to be considered as the product of an international effort to focus the attention of geoscientists on the development of shared policies, guidelines, strategies and tools, with the long-range goal of fostering the adoption of ethical practices in the geoscience community. The final document sums up all the values, concepts, contents developed in the first 4-year activity of IAPG, giving a perspective for the future development of geoethics. The CTSG has been announced during the opening keynote speech by Silvia Peppoloni (IAPG Secretary General) in the first IAPG session on geoethics at the 35th IGC. After the congress, the draft version has been sent for comments and suggestions to all the IAPG officers (members of the Executive Council, Coordinators of the National Sections,

IAPG - International Association for Promoting Geoethics (<http://www.geoethics.org>)

Corresponding Citizen Scientists) and to the 35th IGC Champions of the Theme "Geoscience Professionalism and Geoethics". Once improved (thanks in particular to Nic Bilham, Martin Bohle, Emilia Hermelinda Lopera Parejas, David Mogk), the final version has been ratified by the Executive Council of the IAPG and finally published in the IAPG website.

The concepts, values and views on individual responsibilities of geoscientists, expressed in the "**Cape Town Statement on Geoethics**", reflect an international consensus. The statement aims to capture the attention of geoscientists and organisations, and to stimulate them to improve their shared policies, guidelines, strategies and tools to ensure they consciously embrace (geo)ethical professional conduct in their work.

The "**Cape Town Statement on Geoethics**" contains the new formula of the "**Geoethical Promise**".

Download the "Cape Town Statement on Geoethics" here: <http://www.geoethics.org/ctsg>

The "Cape Town Statement on Geoethics" is supported by **European Federation of Geologists (EFG)**, **African Association of Women in Geosciences (AAWG)**, **Young Earth Scientists Network (YES Network)**, **International Geoscience Education Organisation (IGEO)**, **Geology in the Public Interest (GPI)**, **International Association for Geoscience Diversity (IAGD)**.

If your organization is interested to support the "Cape Town Statement on Geoethics", please contact the IAPG Secretariat by sending an email to: iapgeoethics@aol.com

IAPG GENERAL ASSEMBLY



IAPG held its 1st General Assembly in Cape Town (South Africa) on 31 August 2016, during the 35th IGC - International Geological Congress.

The goal of the General Assembly was to outline and share essential information about the last 4-year activity of IAPG, including the financial situation, and to ratify some decisions. During the General Assembly was announced the institution of the **Geoethics Medal** and the **International Geoethics Day**. Finally it was discussed the **new IAPG strategy** for the period 2017-2020.

**Download the minutes
(pdf file)**



IAPG SESSIONS AT THE 35TH IGC



Geoethics has got an important space in the programme of the last 35th IGC - International Geological Congress in Cape Town (South Africa), thanks to several events organized by IAPG - International Association for Promoting Geoethics: 6 oral sessions, 1 poster session and 1 panel session (<http://www.geoethics.org/35th-igc>). 27 speakers with different skills and expertise, coming from 17 countries in 5 continents, have discussed both theoretical aspects and case-studies of geoethics, covering a wide spectrum of geoethical issues: theoretical and educational aspects of geoethics (Silvia Peppoloni, David Mogk, John Geissman and Shree Prasad Vista), ethical implications in mining (Edmund Nickless, Pekka Nurmi, Madhumita Das), in geohazards (Eldon Gath and George Stone), in geoheritage and environmental protection (Margaret Brocx); relationships between geoscientists and decision makers (Mark Priddle), ethical activities in geoscience organizations (Christine McEntee and Heather Houlton), frauds in paleontology (Artur Sà), ethical aspects in data management (Michiel Van der Meulden and Serge Van Vessel), geoscience communication (Iain Stewart, Martin Bohle, Nick Bilham) and local population involvement (Daniel Lebel), global initiatives on sustainability and risk reduction (Joel Gill), geosciences to serve society (Jean-Robert Mweze, Nic Bilham, Ezzoura Errami, Marie Fleming and Koen Verbruggen). 5 keynote speakers (Silvia Peppoloni, Christine McEntee, Iain Stewart, David Mogk, Edmund Nickless) and 5 panelists (Nic Bilham, Ruth Allington, Silvia Peppoloni, David Mogk, Heather Houlton) have outlined "**What's the point of geoethics**", highlighting key-issues and giving a framework of reference for the future development of geoethics. A large audience has accompanied all the 3 day-sessions, with a fruitful involvement into the discussion.

The great success of the discussion on geoethics in Cape Town is the result of a cooperative work led by IAPG together with IUGS-Task Group on Global Geoscience Professionalism (TG-GGP), Geological Society of London (GSL), European Federation of Geologists (EFG), EuroGeoSurveys (EGS), and contributions of representatives of the American Geosciences Institute (AGI), American Geophysical Union (AGU), Natural Resources Canada (NRC), African Association of Women in Geosciences (AAWG), Geological Survey of Finland (GSF), Geological Survey of the Netherlands (GSN), Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI).

The interest of geoscientists in geoethical aspects has exploded and today geoethics has a visibility that it has never had before. In the last 4 years IAPG has worked to give scientific dignity to Geoethics, building a clear conceptual substratum, that constitutes a strong base for the future development of ethical issues, at disposal of the geoscience community. This result represents a point of arrival after the foundation of the IAPG (in 2012 at the 34th IGC), and at the same time a starting point for a new phase of geoethics and the Association. In her keynote, Silvia Peppoloni announced the publication of the "**Cape Town Statement on Geoethics**" by IAPG, that takes stock of the situation on geoethics, giving essential points of reference.

IAPG thanks all those who have contributed to the success of the symposium on geoethics. A photogallery of this event is in preparation.

CONGRESSES/MEETINGS



GEOETHICS AT THE AGU FALL MEETING 2016

San Francisco (USA)
12 December 2016

Geoethics is among the topics of the AGU Fall Meeting even this year. IAPG is actively involved in this important annual geoscience event and co-organizes the session:

PA12B: Geoethics and Scientific Integrity – The Keys to Advancing the Geosciences and a Healthy Planet

Session Description:

Geoscience directly influences the sustainability and health of the Earth; it must be conducted with the highest standards of integrity and ethics. Geoscientist's research elucidates many issues with significant ethical, social, and economic implications. Considering such risks as natural hazards, climate change, resource extraction, and the environmental impact of chemical and atmospheric elements; there is a clear need to develop ethical frameworks within which geoscientists can conduct their research, education, and communication. The session's goal is to discuss these frameworks, examining both theoretical and practical aspects of Geoethics and scientific integrity. We will explore the most recent advances in research on scientific integrity and Geoethics education, the ethics of publishing and data access, and will feature both the new report on Responsible Science from the National Academy of Sciences and new AGU/Wiley Scientific Integrity and Geoethics book.

Convenership:

Linda Gundersen, Brooks Hanson, Cindy Palinkas (IAPG-USA), Vincent Cronin (IAPG-USA)

Programme (list of oral presentations)





GEOETHICS AT THE EGU GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2017

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Vienna (Austria)
23-28 April 2017

IAPG - International Association for Promoting Geoethics organizes the session:

EOS14 "**Geoethics: ethical, social and cultural implications of geoscience knowledge, education, research and practice**".

The conveners invite abstracts on both practical and theoretical aspects of geoethics, including case studies. The aim of the session is to develop ethical and social perspectives on the challenges arising from human interaction with natural systems, to complement technical approaches and solutions, and to help to define an ethical framework for geoscientists' research and practice in addressing these challenges.

This session is organized in collaboration with GSL - Geological Society of London.

Convenership:

Silvia Peppoloni, Nic Bilham, Martin Bohle, Giuseppe Di Capua, Eduardo Marone

More information and abstract submission

Deadline: 11 January 2017



GEOETHICS AT THE RFG 2018 CONFERENCE

Vancouver (Canada)
16-21 June 2018

IAPG is partner of the RFG 2018 Conference, and thanks to our Association geoethics has been included among the sub-themes (under the theme "Resources and Society")

IAPG has submitted the proposal for a session titled "**Geoethics and Resources Needs for Future Generations**". We will give you more details as soon as the call for abstracts will be open. Stay tuned!

NEWS ON THE ORGANIZATION



**Nic Bilham is the
new IAPG Continental Coordinator for Europe**

[Read more](#)

Members of the IAPG Executive Council:
<http://www.geoethics.org/executive-council>



**Elizabeth Silva is the new IAPG Corresponding Citizen Scientist
on "Geoethics and Geoparks"**

[Read more](#)



**Edmund Nickless is the new IAPG Corresponding Citizen
Scientist on "Geoethics for Society"**

[Read more](#)

List of IAPG Corresponding Citizen Scientists:
<http://www.geoethics.org/ccs>



Iain Stewart is the new IAPG Corresponding Citizen Scientist on "Risk communication"

[Read more](#)



Christine McEntee is the new IAPG Corresponding Citizen Scientist on "Harassment and Discrimination in Geosciences"

[Read more](#)



Robert Frodeman is the new IAPG Corresponding Citizen Scientist on "Geoethics and Philosophy"

[Read more](#)

List of IAPG Corresponding Citizen Scientists:
<http://www.geoethics.org/ccs>



Paulo Emanuel Talhadas Ferreira da Fonseca
(Department of Geology, University of Lisbon)
is the new co-coordinator of IAPG-Portugal

[Read more](#)



Ameer Hayder Khalid
(Department of Applied Geosciences, College of Spatial Planning and
Applied Science, University of Duhok, Kurdistan Region)
is the new co-coordinator of IAPG-Iraq

[Read more](#)

List of IAPG National Sections:
<http://www.geoethics.org/sections>



NEW PUBLICATIONS



A new paper on geoethics

Vasconcelos C., Torres J.M., Vasconcelos L. and Moutinho S. (2016). **Sustainable development and its connection to teaching geoethics**. Episodes Vol. 39, no. 3, 509-517, 2016.

[Read here](#)

IAPG publications on geoethics:
<http://www.geoethics.org/publications>

FROM THE IAPG BLOG



A report from the 35th IGC: the Panel-Session "What's the point of Geoethics"

(by Martin Bohle, Belgium)

"The purpose of the panel-session organized by IAPG - International Association for Promoting Geoethics was to distil insights. The panel meeting followed four thematic sessions on geoethics. These sessions presented a wide spectrum of contributions, which were ranging from conceptual work, through consideration about training and awareness, to reports on experiences. At the panel meeting, key-speakers were asked to present how their views had evolved, focussing on: Lights and shadows of geoethics (Silvia Peppoloni), Teaching geoethics - A Great Challenge (David Mogk), Professionalism - How to practice geosciences in an ethical way (Ruth Allington), (Geo)ethical dilemmas in geosciences - What to do (Heather Houlton replacing Christopher Keane), and Geoethics for society - Is it possible? (Nic Bilham)....."

[Read here](#)

List of articles published in the IAPG Blog:
<http://www.geoethics.org/blog.html>

NEWS FROM THE NETWORK



Zero tolerance by IAPG towards Harassment and Discrimination

IAPG has contributed to update the Code of Ethics of the European Federation of Geologists (EFG). This important update, unanimously approved and agreed upon by the EFG Council at the 72nd EFG Council meeting held in Brussels on 19 and 20 November 2016, relates to the maintenance of a high level of professionalism in a working environment, and in particular to the importance of fighting harassment and discrimination.

[Read more](#)



Training course 2016 on Ocean Governance, Ocean Sciences and Geoethics

Organized by the International Ocean Institute - Training Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean, Brazil in collaboration with IAPG-Brazil.

[Read more](#)



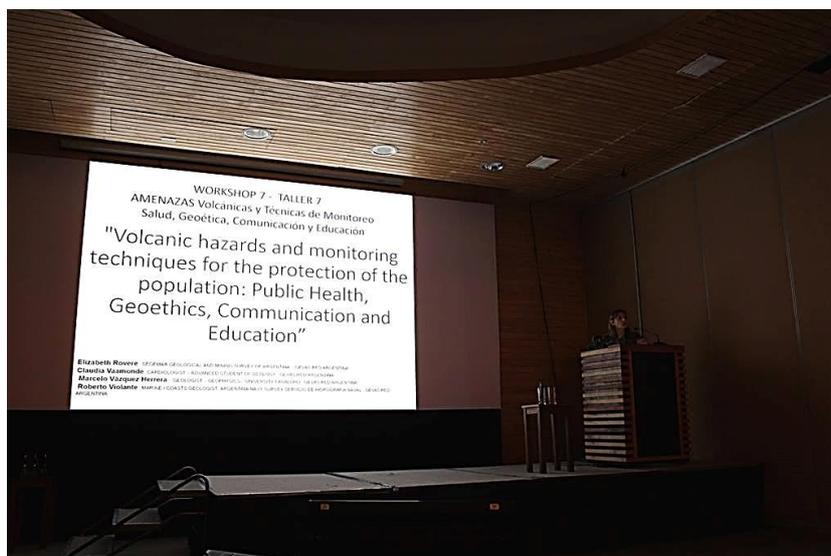


Photogallery of the Workshop on Geoethics organized by IAPG-Nigeria

Abuja (Nigeria)
24 October 2016

The importance of Geoethics in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nigeria.

Photogallery



Geoethics at CoV-9

Puerto Varas (Chile)
21 November 2016

We wish to thank Elizabeth Rovere, our IAPG-Argentina co-coordinator, to have organized the workshop **"Volcanic hazards and monitoring techniques for the protection of the population: Public Health, Geoethics, Communication and Education"** at the Conference Cities on Volcanoes (CoV-9).

NEW IAPG FLYER



**Download the flyer
(pdf file)**

DONATIONS



Now it is possible to make a donation to the IAPG - International Association for Promoting Geoethics through **PAYPAL**.

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