

25TH COLLOQUIUM ON AFRICAN GEOLOGY (CAG25),

14-16th August, 2014
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Report on the Activities

by Lopo Vasconcelos

(IAGETH VP for Africa)

1. MEETING WITH THE AFRICAN IAGETH-NC PRESENT IN DAR ES SALAAM

There was a number of African National Chapters here – Mozambique, Namibia, Morocco, Egypt, Ethiopia and Nigeria.

We had a meeting only with the NC of Namibia, Morocco, Egypt, because the NC Nigeria was not available at the moment, and the NC Ethiopia hadn't still arrived in DAR, but they were later briefed about the meeting (Foto 1).

We discussed what to in our countries and the conclusions were:

- a) Try to call to IAGETH as much members in the respective countries as possible to strengthen their NCs;
- b) Try to develop a national deontological and (geo)ethical code for the geoscientist of each country. Mozambican code (English version) will be sent to everyone to serve as model
- c) Include the topic of Geoethics in meetings at national and international level where NCS are involved.

I was approached by some people who are interested in discussing Geoethics in their countries: Sudan (who actually took part in the above mentioned meeting), DR Congo, Kenya and South Africa. I also contacted ElyvinNkonjera from Malawi (YES-Africa Chair) and Daniel Asiedu from Ghana, to invite them either to be NC or to indicate someone reliable that will take that in charge. I asked them to visit the website and submit the application for IAGETH Member. Those willing to be the NC should send me a CV so that IAGETH Council can approve.

AmelBarich, our NC from Morocco, is also very active with YES-Africa, and we discussed the need to bring Geoethics into YES movement. She agreed and she said that she had already thought about, but was very busy in organizing the meeting in Dar es Salaam. She will take care of it in a near future.

Country	Name	E-mail	Organization
Sudan	Elnour Koko Mohamed	elnourko55@hotmail.com	Director of Mineral Exploration Administration, Ministry of Minerals
DRC	Patrick Maheshe	patrickmaheshe88@gmail.com	?
Kenya	Benedict Muyale	bmuyale@hotmail.com , benedict@greensuncities.org	Green Sun Cities
South Africa	Emmanuel Chirenje	echirenje@geoscience.org.za	Council for Geoscience
Malawi	ElyvinNkonjera	elyvinnkhonjera@gmail.com	will find who in Malawi
Ghana	Daniel Asiedu	dasiedu@ug.edu.gh	will find who in Ghana

2. WORKSHOP TW6 – GEOETHICS: STATE-OF-THE-ART AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES IN AFRICA

Co-conveners: Lopo Vasconcelos, Aberra Mogessie and Enas Ahmed

16th August, 16h-18h

The Workshop occurred from 16h-18h of the last day of CAG25, in Mkomazi Room of the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere International Convention Center, Dar es Salaam, with the participation of 19 people

Lopo Vasconcelos made a presentation previously delivered in Johannesburg, 2013, during the “Mozambique Coal Conference” organized by the Fossil Fuel Foundation.

Summarizing this presentation, it refers to (i) several definitions of ethics and geoethics and the idea people have about the issue, (ii) professional ethics and deontology, (iii) the example of the deontological and ethical code of ICOG (Spain) defining the guide-lines of the geo-professional activity and responsibilities, (iv) reference to the International Declaration of Geoethics listing indicators for development of Geoethics, (v) geoeducation and geoethical approach, (vi) sustainability of societies, (vii) geoethical challenges faced by the professionals.

Prof. Aberra Mogessie was introduced as member of the IAGET Senior Advisory Board, and Lopo Vasconcelos as Vice-President of IAGETH to Africa.

There was some discussion about geoethical (and Ethical) issues:

- a) Difference between ethical and criminal issues? Sometimes unethical issues can be considered criminal and treated as such.
- b) The question of societies which have a code but not with the force of law, how can we “oblige” people to behave accordingly?
- c) As teachers, and about the attitudes the young people have nowadays, reference was done to the absence of “family”; this means that students per se are not to be blamed.
- d) Parents have no time for kids; has this to do with generation gaps?
- e) Nowadays, people do not care to step over anyone or anything to get what they want
- f) As suggestions to mitigate these problems, it was suggested that schools/universities should prepare guidelines for the students on how to behave, sign a pledge at the beginning of activities; geoethics should also be taught at the first level of universities.
- g) Important that societies give the teachers the due importance they deserve. The example of Finland was given.
- h) Considering societies which are very heterogeneous, the suggestion was given that the codes should be general to fit all cultures.
- i) Final statement: don’t present your work if you didn’t do it!

Prof. Aberra Mogessie referred to the existence of the other international organization for Geoethics – IAPG.

At the end of the workshop, delegates from Niger, Tanzania and Algeria showed interest in becoming National Chapters of IAGETH. We referred the meeting we had previously with other established NC where we defined the activities to carry out, and suggest the probable new NC to act accordingly, if accepted. They were told to go to the IAGETH and register, and send the respective CV for IAGETH-EC to approve.

Country	Name	E-mail	Organization
Niger	Hassane Amadou	hassanamadou@gmail.com	Ministry of Mines and Industrial Development, Director of Geology
Tanzania	Stephen Nyagonde	Styna19@yahoo.com	Centre for Climate Change Studies, University of Dar es Salaam
Algeria	Safouane Djemai	safouane.djemai@gmail.com	Université des Sciences et de Technologie Houari Boumediene

Two other South Africans attending the meeting, and members of the Council for Geosciences, are will to participate in Geoethics activities in South Africa:

Country	Name	E-mail	Organization
South Africa	Kate Robey	krobey@geoscience.org.za	CGS
	TaufeedDhansay	tdhansay@geoscience.org.za	

The Workshop finished with a Family Photo (Foto 2).

After the Workshop, I was approached by Sophie Siby from Senegal, willing to develop a IAGETH NV in her country:

Country	Name	E-mail	Organization
Senegal	Sophie Siby	sosiby@yahoo.fr	AAWG

Maputo, 19th August 2014

Lopo Vasconcelos

IAGETH Vice-President for Africa