

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF GEOETHICS

NEMEC, VÁCLAV, Prague, Czech Republic

The author started to develop geoethics as a new auxiliary discipline in 1991. As to the International Geological Congresses first single presentations took place in Kyoto whereas in Beijing already a series of contributions to this subject appeared. The 31st IGC makes a further progress. Since 1992 special international sections on geoethics have been regularly organized as part of the Mining Příbram Symposia in the Czech Republic. In five sessions (1992 - 1999) altogether 131 contributions have been published. Their authors from 15 countries represent a large family covering many professions: in majority geologists and mining engineers (both from academia and industry), but representatives of other sciences (economics, mine surveying, history, philosophy, moral theology) brought many interesting aspects from outside. Both theoretical (definition of geoethics, philosophical background, interrelations with other disciplines of earth sciences) and practical aspects of geoethics (e.g. geoethical codes, geoethical accounting, social problems, relation to the history and future, globalization effects) are to be cultivated in an equilibrium. The co-operation with environmental ethics and with business ethics is needed. The necessity to improve the present geoethical situation is far more pressing in the countries of the former Eastern block as well as in other developing countries whereas in the highly developed countries a tendency to shift difficult problems to less developed countries (e.g. when stopping the exploitation at the own territory and developing it in a foreign one) can be presented as a lack of global solidarity. At the beginning of the third millenium a broad institutionalization of geoethics is to be strengthened. Geoethical codes and education emphasizing ideas of a sustainable development will help in difficult decision making processes.