



The Role of Geoethics in Geohazards Mitigation: A YES Network Perspective

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The YES Network is an international group of early career geoscientists from universities, geosciences organizations and companies, with over 3000 members from 121 countries. It has been founded in 2008 during the International Year of Planet Earth with the vision of “Promoting the Geosciences for Society”. Until now, 42 National Chapters have been set up.

The YES Network aims to build communication bridges between geologists, Policy makers, and Society in order to develop Geological Projects for sustainable development, international scientific collaborations, to bridge the ages between the geoscientists’ generations, promote equity in the professional development of young and early career earth-scientists, etc.

Concerning the Geoethics field, recently introduced into the Geosciences domain, the YES Network would like to raise the following ideas:

The L’Aquila trial is a case for geoscientists to think about their freedom on research, their responsibility toward the society and their relationship with the public policy and medias. These points are crucial for the professional development of the young and early-career earth-scientists around the world. The YES Network is, therefore, setting up an open forum to collect ideas from all young and early-career scientists around the world on this topic in order to spread awareness among this growing part of the scientific community and help them act like an efficient part of it.

There have been for a long time many debates about natural hazards both at regional and global level. It is the duty of the scientific community with the collaboration of policy makers to help mitigate the consequences of the natural disasters around the world. The YES Network is currently developing projects about these issues notably about in coastal Countries including geological mapping, Geohazards Reduction Scenarios, teaching programs for local populations.

Earth sciences Education is slowing down in developed countries and growing very fast in some developing areas. In African countries, there is a very strong need for implementing this discipline in the sustainable development process. For this purpose, a balance is needed between Geoethics principles and the implementation of Earth Sciences into the policy making system to help an easier and fair involvement of the Earth-scientists community and promote equity in Earth-Science education and professional development for the YES members around the world.