



Geosciences: an important tool for the ethical advancement and the economic and cultural development of our society

Gian Vito Graziano

Consiglio Nazionale dei Geologi, Rome, Italy (gianvito.graziano@cngeologi.it)

The development of a society in economic, cultural and ethical terms is always linked to the growth of the scientific and technical knowledge. It follows that the downsizing of the scientific research brings to a slower growth or even, as it is happening these days in Italy, a real cultural decay.

The consequences of the economic crisis are evident to everyone, but it is precisely in times of crisis that the best strategies to restart the economy and give new cultural perspectives to society are studied. The crisis is also contrasted with ideas and ability to put them into practice. This, however, also presupposes a different cultural approach, which has to also include a review of values and beliefs, and a redefinition of the objectives to be pursued. This approach is modeled on the basis of several positive experiences that a country can boast.

Among these experiences, there are those arising from the scientific culture: geology, for example, such as chemistry, biology or other sciences, can help to change vision.

The research and practice of Earth sciences have important implications on the life and activities of the population and therefore the geoscientists, as active subjects in the society, should question their role and responsibilities. They should be at the service of society, especially in the fields of prevention from natural hazards and valorization of georesources. In this sense they can give important indications for economy and development of their country. The Italian Council of Geologists (Consiglio Nazionale dei Geologi - CNG) acts with the aim of highlighting the social role of geoscientists, hoping for a new cultural Renaissance, which leads to new researches, without obscurantism or prejudices.

In an authoritative way, the CNG intends to put this social role before any demand from the professional category. Therefore, it has recently presented its political Manifesto, geared essentially to the good governance of the territory, to all the Italian political parties and candidates to the role of Prime Minister, asking them to share it in their election programs.

This paper stresses that geology can and must bring those contributions which society requires, in respect of a comprehensive view of the land and its management, with an integrated approach to the major issues that directly or indirectly involve the whole society: finding, exploitation and proper management of natural resources (water, raw materials and sources of energy); knowledge of natural hazards and risks and consequent planning of all those actions necessary and indispensable, since the territorial safety is a fundamental right of every citizen.

If the geosciences and geoscientists will be placed at the base of the economic and social structure of a modern country, consequently their contribution in terms of ethical and cultural progress of society will become essential.