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Geosciences and Multiple Facets of Geoethics

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The Earth system is open, heterogeneous, dynamic and complex. Geoscientists must be equipped to address the concepts of "deep time", work on spatial scales from atomic to planetary, make inferences from an incomplete geologic record, and deal with ambiguity and uncertainty in their professional work. Geosciences role involves important issues when societal needs and core values of the environmental ethics come in conflict.

The ground realities and field work in geosciences presents many challenges that confront issues of Geoethics such as, the manner in which we have to perform our scientific activity, the interaction with other scientists, the dissemination of scientific results to the public, etc. The advancement of Science requires trust that individual scientists act responsibly, and Society must have confidence in the work of individual geoscientists and the geosciences as a profession.

Geosciences can help to dispel misconceptions and cultural stereotypes that concern natural phenomena, disasters, geo-resources, and land use. Geoscientists have to fix referenced values, as indispensable prerequisites for geoethics.

Ethical conduct involves responsibilities towards the Profession, Society, and the Earth System, as a whole. In order to develop self-monitoring and self-regulating behaviours to understand and recognize ethical issues, as and when they arise, and have the requisite tools to engage with ethical decision-making practices, one needs to have holistic appreciation of whole gamut of Geoethics. Geoethics encompasses the values and professional standards for geoscientists to work responsibly in the profession so that the society is benefitted and the achievements are nurtured.

