

**THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICAL GEOLOGY - WHAT WILL HAPPEN NOW AND IN THE FUTURE?**

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Medical Geology has grown rapidly in ten years. It brings together geoscientists and medical/public health researchers to address health problems caused by geological materials and processes. In January 2006 the International Medical Geology Association (IMGA) was established. Information can be found on the website <http://www.medicalgeology.org>. IMGA has organised itself in regional divisions all over the world and also chapters in several countries. Regular conferences have started, e.g. hemispheric conferences in South-Central America.

Medical geology is involved in promoting medical geology at meetings around the world by organizing and/or sponsoring special sessions or symposia on medical geology. Short courses have been presented in 40 countries and have been attended by thousands of students and professionals with backgrounds in geoscience, biomedical/public health science, environmental science, geography, engineering, chemistry, etc.

The lecture will bring to attention the activities going on now, e.g. local offices, new books and publications, international activities, education activities, conferences, new activities with ICSU etc. It will also analyse the future of medical geology and new concepts for bringing medical geology scientists together.