

Geoethics and Natural Hazards: Communication, Education and the Science-Policy-Practice Interface

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Among the critical ethical issues faced by Geoscientists and Engineers concerned with natural hazards (e.g., earthquake, volcano, landslide, and flood events) is the increasing death toll and cost owing to rapidly growing population, occupation of marginal/unsafe land, and misuse of land. These problems are often aggravated in developing countries. Many natural disasters can be prevented and/or their impact reduced. We must share and communicate our

knowledge more effectively with all private and public stakeholders involved, paying attention to providing balanced information about risks and addressing inevitable uncertainties in natural hazard mapping, assessment, warning, and forecasting. The search for balance between short-term economic issues and wider social impacts from natural hazards is an increasingly urgent need. The scope of this part is to raise awareness on the above issues and foster greater interdisciplinary collaboration that is needed to fulfill our ethical obligations.