Fourth International Lecture on Geomorphology

Geomorphologische Systeme & Risikoforschung

universität wien

EINLADUNG ZUM VORTRAG

im Rahmen des Kolloquiums aus Geographie und Regionalforschung

am MITTWOCH, 9. JUNI 2010, 17 UHR c.t.

INSTITUT FÜR GEOGRAPHIE UND REGIONALFORSCHUNG
Universität Wien • Universitätsstr. 7/5 • 1010 Wien

HÖRSAAL 5A

Professor
Antonio CENDRERO
Department of Earth Science and
Condensed Matter Physics,
University of Cantabria, Spanien

ARE WE OVERLOOKING THE GEOMORPHIC DIMENSION OF GLOBAL CHANGE?

Concern about global change has focussed basically on climate and biodiversity, but changes affecting the earth's surface have received limited attention. Concepts such as *human geomorphic footprint*, *human geomorphic pressure* and *global geomorphic change* have not made their way into the public or general scientific opinion; only into some geomorphologic circles. Perhaps this is due to the fact that the earth's crust is often considered 'inanimate' or 'non-living' and the changes it experiences are viewed as not very important for Nature or human well-being.

However, recent work and data from different parts of the world indicate that changes affecting geomorphic processes are far greater than those experienced by climate or biodiversity. The rates of the former seem to have increased by more than one order of magnitude in just over half a century, and hazards and risks related to them even more. Those evidences suggest the possible existence of a global geomorphic change driven by human activities. Its implications and possible ways to prove or disprove it will be discussed.

Antonio Cendrero is Professor of Geodynamics at the Department of Earth Science and Condensed Matter Physics, University of Cantabria (Santander, Spain), and also a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Spain. He has held former academic positions in the US, Iraq and Argentina. His research work has dealt with geology and geochronology of volcanic regions, environmental assessment and land-use planning, environmental quality indicators, geo-hazards (particularly landslides) and interactions between earth surface processes and human activities.

Organisiert von
Arbeitsgruppe *Geomorphologische Systeme und Risikoforschung*
Institut für Geographie und Regionalforschung
Universität Wien