



Visit of Prof. Jesús Martínez-Frías, President of IAGETH, to Maputo, Mozambique, from the 16th to the 20th March, 2014

1. INTRODUCTION

Invited by AGMM, Geological Mining Association of Mozambique, Prof. Jesús Martínez-Frías, Senior Scientist of the Instituto de Geociencias, IGEO (CSIC-UCM) and President of the IAGETH (International Association for Geoethics) traveled to Maputo, Capital of the Republic of Mozambique. It must be referred that AGMM is a partner organization of IAGETH.

His visit is part of the celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the creation of AGMM, during which the organization promoted the debate on the Deontological and Ethical Code, discussed and approved during the AGMM General Assembly of 20 March 2014.

During his stay, other important activities were carried out, described ahead.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the visit were:

- a) Meeting with academic authorities;**
- b) Talk on Geoeducation and Geoethics in Earth and Planetary Sciences: Mars Exploration;**
- c) Participation on the discussion of the AGMM Deontological and Ethical Code;**
- d) Other activities.**

3. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

a) Meeting with academic authorities – Academic and Scientific activities

This meeting was held at the Meeting Room of the Rectory of Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM) on March 17th, 2014, from 14h30m to 15h00m, with the following participants:

- Prof. Orlando Quilambo, Rector of UEM;
- Eng. Carlos Lucas, Director for Cooperation of UEM;
- Malamba
- Prof. Jesús Martínez-Frías, Senior Scientist of the Instituto de Geociencias, IGEO (CSIC-UCM) and President of IAGETH (International Association for Geoethics);
- Prof. Lopo Vasconcelos, professor at UEM, Vice-President of IAGETH for Africa and promoter of the Deontological and Ethical Code of Geoscientists in Mozambique.

The aim of this meeting was to open possible ways of scientific cooperation. The Rector of UEM gave a brief presentation of the university, its main challenges and needs. He referred to the new Mission and Vision of UEM, that focus more on post-graduation and research.

Prof. Jesús Martínez-Frías explained a bit about IAGETH, IUGS-COGE and Geoethics (IAGETH), referring to planetary research, and to the possibility of Mozambique to participate in this field through the **research of analogues of Mars on Earth**, as is the case of thermal waters, or other important areas for studying the origin of the Earth and Life of which some can be found in Mozambique. The multidisciplinary aspect of this activity was also stressed.

From the meeting, the Rector showed to be open and interested on the ideas discussed, and pointed Eng. Carlos Lucas as the intermediate for these issues at central level; and was given the task of exploring the agreement signed between UEM and the Complutense University of Madrid (UCM), since the Institute of Geosciences is a joint center of that university and CSIC (Superior Council for Scientific Researches) of Spain.

b) Talk on Geoeducation and Geoethics in Earth and Planetary Sciences: Mars Exploration

This activity took place at one of the conference rooms of VIP Maputo Hotel, on the March 18th, from 15h30m to 17h00m. The talk was promoted by AGMM, taking profit of the presence of Prof. Jesús Martínez-Frías and of his knowledge on geoeducation, ethics and astrogeology.

The talk was assisted by between 40-50 people, among them geoscientists and students of several higher education institutions, as well as normal people that showed interest in these issues.

The session of opened by the President of AGMM, Prof. Daud Jamal, with the presence of the Vice-President of AGMM, Eng. Mário Deus, the Director of the National Museum of Geology, Dr. Luís Costa Júnior, the National Director of Geology, Dr. Adriano Sênvano, amongst others.

After the talk there was a debate with a very high degree of participation.

It should be noted that this activity falls within the Day of Earth Sciences in Africa and Middle East (DESAME).

c) Participation on the discussion of the AGMM Deontological and Ethical Code

This was the main reason for the visit of Prof. Jesús Martínez-Frías to Mozambique, in his capacity as President of IAGETH.

The draft of the Deontological and Ethical Code (DEC) was promoted by Prof. Lopo Vasconcelos, Vice President of IAGETH for Africa, and was by him presented to the AGMM General Assembly, held in Maputo on March 20th 2014, between 16h and 18h, at the Social Center of the Ministry of Mineral Resources.

Prior to the presentation and discussion of the draft of the DEC, Prof. Jesús Martínez-Frías made a little intervention about the importance of Geoethics and IAGETH, and congratulated Mozambique for approving the Code, being the 3rd country in the world and the 1st in Africa to include Geoethics in its DEC, and it is expected that the Mozambican code will be a model for other African countries to adopt the same principles.

He also said that the AGMM is a partner organization of IAGETH, thus engaging itself in boosting the issue of geoethics in the country, starting with the newly approved Code fits.

The proposal presented by Prof. Lopo Vasconcelos was approved by unanimous vote, with some points still deserving some reformulation.

d) Other activities

- On March 18th 2014, at the Department of Geology of UEM, a debate was organized about the issue of **Plagiarism** aimed mainly at the 3rd and 4th level students of the Geology Courses (Applied Geology, and Cartography and Geological Prospecting); it should be mentioned that this debate was proposed by dr. Elídio Massuanganhe, from the teaching staff of the Department of Geology of UEM; Prof. Jesús Martínez-Frías made also a small intervention about the topic, summarizing the main issues raised.

It should also be mentioned that this activity also falls within the Day of Earth Sciences in Africa and Middle East (DESAME).

- On March 19th 2014, at the VIP-Maputo Hotel, AGMM organized the ceremony of the official launch of the 2nd Congress of Geology of Mozambique (**CoGeo02**)/12th Geochemical Congress of the Portuguese Speaking Countries (**12CGPLP**) to be held in Maputo in September 2014, and for the ceremony Prof. Jesús Martínez-Frías was also invited.

4. FUTURE STEPS

- To explore the agreement between UEM and UCM for the development of academic and scientific activities previously mentioned;
- In that sense, to initiate an academic and scientific collaboration on the field of “Analogues of Mars”, starting with the topic of komatiitic rocks, for their importance for the origin of Earth and Life;
- To translate into English the new DEC and insert it in the websites of IAGETH, GSAf and AGMM;
- To write a paper on the activities carried out to be submitted to an international journal to divulge what Mozambique is doing in these fields, under the “Science Policy” of the country.

Maputo, 20th March 2014

The President of IAGETH

The Vice-President of IAGETH for Africa

Prof. Jesús Martínez-Frías

Prof. Lopo Vasconcelos