

competition. All drawings are of very high standard and merge cartography and art very well.

The ICA Past President Prof Milan Konečný was invited for the award ceremony where he greeted and congratulated the winners. In his address he appreciated the role of Bulgarian cartographers and their inspiration and ideas that enrich the Barbara Petchenik Contest at the global level.

All attending children were invited to visit the *Earth and Man* National Museum expositions.

The National Geographic KIDS Bulgaria will published an article about the 7th Bulgarian Competition within the Children's World Map Contest *Living in a Globalized World* in its May 2011 edition.

Temenujka Bandrova | University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy | Bulgaria ●

GeoSiberia 2011

The 7th International Exhibition and Scientific Congress GeoSiberia 2011 was held in Novosibirsk, Russian Federation, 27-29 April 2011. The congress covered 6 main topics in 19 technical sessions with more than 610 presentations, and attracted more than 1500 participants.

One of the key activities was a 2-day International Workshop on *Early Warning and Crisis, Disaster and Emergency Management* organised by the Siberian State Academy of Geodesy (SSGA) in Novosibirsk, ICA Working Group on Cartography on Early Warning and Crisis Management (CEWCM), and International Society on Digital Earth (ISDE). The organisers prepared a rich program attracting

Supporting organisations of GeoSiberia 2011 Conference in Novosibirsk, Russia | *Photograph courtesy of Milan Konečný*



Participants of the *Early Warning and Crises, Disaster and Emergency Management* Workshop organised by ICA, SSGA and ISDE during GeoSiberia 2011, Novosibirsk, Russia | *Photograph courtesy of Milan Konečný*

more than 100 participants from 15 countries.

The theme of the event proved to be very popular and "magnetic" as many newcomers and people using maps and GIS in their daily work, such as builders and decision makers took part in the workshop. Mr GM Nigmatov from the Ministry of Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disaster of Russian Federation delivered a keynote address *Monitoring of Individual Seismic Risk*. Prof Milan Konečný, Chair of CEWCM, talked about *Early Warning and Crisis Management Research Agenda*.

The main objective of the workshop was to showcase the interaction of cartography, surveying and geoinformation technology in early warning and crisis management situations. As an example, the integration of remote sensing data from small and micro satellites with the Glonass/GPS/Galileo data for exact location of crises situations and real assessment of damages, the 3-D models of potentially dangerous objects and disaster processes, and laser scanning was demonstrated. Also the potential of European Union directives such as the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security and INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe) give new possibilities for cooperative decision making and disaster mitigation. Special attention was given to municipality security, security of food, monitoring of deformations of constructions (e.g. bridges), as well as monitoring of natural objects. These topics were part of 24 presentations on the first day.

The second day was devoted to the creation of SDI in Russia and potentials of its usage in early warning and crises management situation. The most interesting papers dealt with modeling of possible threats (floods, fires, land slides), as well as ecological impacts on inhabitants. 19 papers were presented together with 8 posters.

A mixture of world leading scientists and representatives of ISPRS, FIG and other organizations was greatly appreciated. Prof

Gottfried Konecny from Germany and Prof Ammatzia Peled from Israel delivered excellent and current presentations. Prof Shunji Murai from Japan contributed another interesting paper concerning the first Japan experiences after the tragic earthquake and tsunami disaster (including update on the nuclear power station in Fukushima). His and other papers were included in the workshop proceedings prepared by Svetlana Dyshlyuk and Argina Novitskaya.

The event confirmed that the ICA and sister organizations took the right approach in devoting more attention to early warning and crisis management processes which influence lives of millions of people over the world. Cartographic and geoinformation methods have still a big potential to be applied even further to improve the quality of decision making and response in such critical situations. Novosibirsk event also confirmed the leading role of the ICA's CEWCM in organising a network of important events related to early warning and crisis management and highlighting the influence of cartography in disaster situations in many parts of the world.

Milan Konečný | Past President of ICA | Czech Republic ●

Toponymy and ICA

Toponymy can be briefly defined as the science of place and geographical names, and is in a sense a sub-discipline of onomastics, the science of proper names in general. It lies at the intersection of several acknowledged disciplines, notably linguistics, geography and cartography, but is also recognised in the historical, cultural and juridical research.

The United Nations (UN) recognised the significance of geographical names standardization as early as 1960, when it established an expert group in this field – the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names