

WORKING LIFE IN GEOSCIENCES: OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY SESSION

Hafize Akıllı, Mustafa Yağmur

The session entitled **"Working Life in Earth Sciences: Occupational Health and Safety", which is one**one of the important sessions of the Turkish Geological Congress , focuses on the systematic identification, prevention, and management of hazards and risks that may arise during scientific research, education, and professional practices in earth sciences. The aim of the session is to assess in advance the risks our colleagues may encounter in the field (geological surveys, drilling, excavation, and mining), in laboratories, and other working environments; to establish healty and safe working conditions; and to develop a sustainable culture of occupational health and safety.

According to the Occupational Health and Safety Law No. 6331 and related legislation, workplaces related to earth sciences can be classified as low-risk, risky, or very risky depending on the nature of their activities. Some of our colleagues working in the field of earth sciences are employers or employer representatives, while others are employees. In this context, it is of great importance for employers and employees to be aware of their responsibilities regarding occupational health and safety, to take the necessary preventive and protective measures, and to prevent work accidents and occupational diseases.

In line with the main theme of the 79th Turkish Geological Congress , **"Earth Sciences in Solving Global Problems: Earth-Society-Future,"** we believe that earth science studies should be evaluated not only in terms of their scientific and technical outcomes, but also in terms of their impact on human health, working life, the environment, and society. The International Union of Geological Sciences' (IUGS) approach to the scope of earth sciences also reveals that activities such as natural disasters, the environment, engineering geology, and human-earth system interactions can be related to physical, chemical, and environmental hazards. Therefore, occupational health and safety must be given priority at all stages, from the planning to the implementation of earth science studies.

The session will place particular emphasis on risk assessment in field and laboratory work, safe drilling and excavation practices, personal protective equipment, control of exposure to geogenic hazards (such as dust, gas, heavy metals, and toxic minerals), occupational health and safety practices in the mining and energy sectors, emergency and disaster preparedness, and increasing awareness of occupational safety in earth sciences education. Furthermore, the development of safe working methods, documentation and monitoring of risks, sharing lessons learned from workplace accidents, and the dissemination of preventive approaches based on scientific data will be encouraged.

It is intended thet this session, to be held as part of the 79th Turkish Geological Congress **from 12 to 16 April 2027**, will contribute to the development of healty and safe working conditions in the earth sciences, the prevention of workplace accidents and occupational diseases, and the establishment of a safety culture as an integral part of professional life.

In this regard, we invite all researchers and colleagues to share their scientific work, field experiences and examples of best practice at the session **entittled "Working Life in the Earth Sciences: Occupational Health and Safety".**