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**EUROPA UND DIE SCHWEIZ
EIN AKTUALITÄTSBEZOGENER AUFSATZ**

Adrian Vatter

INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION REGIONAL CONFERENCE

**ENVIRONMENT AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN CENTRAL EUROPE:
PROBLEMS OF TRANSITION**

Prague, Czech Republic, 22-26 August 1994

Prague is probably one of the most beautiful cities in the world and the IGU Regional Conference with expected participation of about 2000 scholars from all continents will be one of Prague's major events in 1994. The Conference is hosted by Charles University of Prague, under the auspices of Václav Havel, President of the Czech Republic, and organized in cooperation with other Central European countries. Central Europe is a natural geographical focus of the Conference, but this by no means excludes other perspectives. And in a similar way, the Conference - aiming at wide range of both scientific and applied issues - is not addressed only to geographic community; its character will be interdisciplinary. The Conference is also intended to become a large scale "East - West" meeting and to this purpose the organizers seek to stimulate participation from Central and Eastern Europe (including former Soviet Union) through an extensive system of grants.

Generally, the programme of the Conference will be structured into four Plenary Sessions and six parallel Streams, divided into number of Thematic Sessions:

STREAM A: The Emerging "New Central Europe"

Themes: Our Changing World
Central Europe: A Search for a New Identity
Reconstruction of Central Europe: Problems and Prospects
Migration and Refugee Problems

STREAM B: Environment and Landscape

Themes: Environment and Society in a Geographic Perspective
Society and Landscape, Landscape Ecology
Geography and Nature Conservation
Environmental Policies, Planning and Management

STREAM C: The GIS, Cartographic Systems and Remote Sensing

Themes: Geographic Information Systems in Action
Mapping the Environment
Remote Sensing for the Environment

STREAM D: The Domain of Physical Geography

Themes: General Problems and Prospects of Physical Geography
Dynamic and Engineering Geomorphology
Climatic and Hydrological Changes
Natural Disasters, Hazards and Risks

STREAM E: The Domain of Human and Economic Geography

Themes: Mainstreams of Geographic Thought
Environment and Society
Economic Restructuring
Urban, Regional and Local Restructuring

STREAM F: Geographic and Environmental Education

Themes: Environment and System of Geographic Education and Training
Becoming Aware
Becoming Professional
Public Awareness Upgrading

Thematic sessions will be accompanied by workshops, poster sessions or round table discussions, not talking about excursions and variety of social events. In addition, large areas will be available for both commercial and non-commercial exhibitions. The Conference will take place in the Palace of Culture, Prague's major convention facility. Its official languages will be English and French, estimated registration fee is 280 USD. More information is available in the Conference Secretariat:

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