



Departement Geologie en Mineralogie  
Departement de Geologie et de Mineralogie

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Tervuren, 18/05/92

Prof. V. A. KOPTYUG  
President of the Siberian  
Branch of the Russian  
Academy of Sciences

GD/JK/CB/92/

Dear Mr. President,

Since a few years much attention is paid by international organizations to the investigation of natural hazards, including earthquakes.

Different organizations and institutes are already involved in seismic studies and in seismic monitoring. However, limited attention is paid to the surface effects of tectonic activity, particularly the identification and characterization of active faults. Active faults of course affect the surface in regions of high seismic activity, but also in regions where seismic activity is limited, the surface morphology is modified by these faults, and particularly the environment is affected.

Investigation of active faults has to be performed by joining geologists, seismologists, geomorphologists, hydrogeologists and engineers. I think that the Siberian Division has an excellent opportunity to create an International Center for Active Tectonics in Irkutsk related to the Institute of the Earth's Crust. The Baikal region and other regions in Siberia are an excellent field laboratory for this type of investigation. The Center could act as a research center on active faults, as a forum for discussion on active tectonics as well as a training center for scientists and for administrators involved in natural hazards monitoring.

Our Institute is interested in collaboration with such a Center.

Yours sincerely,



J. KLERKX  
Head of Department  
Director of the International  
Centre for Geological Research  
in Africa

cc. Prof. N. Logatchev, Academician, Institute of the Earth's  
Crust

РОССИЙСКАЯ АКАДЕМИЯ НАУК  
ОРДЕНА ЛЕНИНА  
СИБИРСКОЕ ОТДЕЛЕНИЕ

630090, Новосибирск-90, проспект  
Академика Лаврентьева, 17  
Для телеграмм: Новосибирск Наука  
Телетайп 1831 тел. 35-67-82

*В.А. Кошуров  
отправлено 5.05.92 через почту*

Mr. J.M. Dehousse  
Minister of Scientific Policy of  
Belgium  
Residence Palace, rue de la Loi  
1000 Bruxelles  
Belgique

№ \_\_\_\_\_

На № \_\_\_\_\_ от \_\_\_\_\_

32-2 233 05 90

Dear Mr. Minister,

In 1989 scientists of Siberia (Russia) and Belgium outlined an initiative of cooperated interdisciplinary research of great continental rift lakes, particularly of Lake Baikal situated in East Siberia, and Lakes Tanganyika and Malawi situated in Central Africa.

This initiative was supported by state authorities, and Minister L. Tobback has signed with me an agreement on cooperation in the abovementioned field.

The National Institute of Belgium represented by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Science was also the first party outside Russia to sign an agreement on the founding of the Baikal International Centre for Ecological Research (BICER) - an open laboratory for multidisciplinary international cooperation in basic geology, biology and environmental chemistry, governed by an International Scientific Council.

Taking into account the high efficiency of BICER, the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences has announced the opening of twelve more International Research Centres in Siberia, *which are active in water sciences.* described in the brochure attached.

During a recent visit to Belgium, my colleagues discussed possibilities of strengthening cooperation with the Belgian scientists. A topic of extreme importance may be archaeological research of the Pazyryk Culture in Altai mountains, which attracts the Royal Museum of Art and History. This Museum is going to take part in the Altai International Centre for Humanitarian and Biospheric Research.

The general opinion is that it is due time for the presentation of the new International Siberian Research Centres to be made in Belgium in order to inform the European Community on this successful joint initiative of Russian and Belgian scientists.

My proposal is to exchange delegations.

In order to establish new contacts, the delegation of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences could inform the Belgian scientific community of new possibilities, and of the results obtained in the International Research Centres in Siberia.

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reply to this proposal at your earliest convenience.

Before making decision about this presentation, you should have full information about our International Centres, and we are inviting you to visit the Novosibirsk, Irkutsk and Altai Research Centres at your convenient time this summer. We will also welcome the specialists you will consider necessary to include in your delegation. All your expenses in Siberia will be covered by the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Sincerely yours,

*V. Koptyug*  
Vice President  
of the Russian Academy of Sciences Prof. V. Koptyug

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78 111 34 1.500 92 r.

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Taking into account the high efficiency of BICER, Siberian Division of the Russian Academy has now announced opening of twelve more Siberian International Research Centers described in the brochure attached.

During a recent visit to Belgium, my colleagues discussed with Belgian scientists the possibilities of strengthening of their cooperation. A more topic of extreme importance may be archeological research of the Pazyrik Culture in Altai Mountains, which attracts the Royal Museum of Art and History

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My proposal is to exchange delegation.

During mutual visits, a delegation of the Siberian Division of the Russian Academy of Sciences could inform the Belgian scientific community on the new possibilities, and on the results obtained in Siberian International Research Centers in order to establish new contacts.

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reply to this proposal at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely

V. Kopyug

*[Handwritten Russian text, partially obscured by a large signature]*

*[Large handwritten signature]*

*[Vertical handwritten notes on the left margin:]*  
 the results, especially, ...  
 concept ...