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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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