



John A. Theodoridis

Many still perceive geophysics to be synonymous with Minerals & Petroleum exploration: applications to archaeology, civil engineering, agriculture and environmental monitoring etc. appear to be either inconsequential or of secondary value – labelling geoscience, as such, is a misnomer and quite limiting.

To serve humanitarian needs with geoscience is indubitably a noble undertaking.

Commencing 13 May 2014, and continuing over a number of days, rainfall accompanying cyclone Tamara befell the Balkan nations of Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), and Croatia. This rainfall, the heaviest on record, caused extensive flooding and devastation,

affecting an estimated 1.6 million (22% of the population) in Serbia, 1.5 million (39% of the population) in BiH and 38 000 in Croatia. In addition to the immense damage to both infrastructure and economies, came one of the cruellest effects of the deluge in the form of many thousands of landslides, that continue to compound the suffering, hindering both rescue and recovery efforts. Most frightening, landslides dislodged active unexploded ordnances (UXO), from the minefields of previous conflicts, which subsequently dispersed into waterways and populated areas.

An open letter addressed to the geophysical community by Snežana Komatina – Petrović, President of the Association of Geophysicists and Environmentalists of Serbia (AGES), Milovan Urosevic, of Curtin University and Koya Suto, former ASEG President, gives urgency to the 'Balkan Cries for Help', calling upon geophysicists to volunteer their expertise and services to help mitigate the threat of landslides (see *Geophysicists in Society*, p. 18). The opportunity exists for the community to donate money to disaster relief efforts, via a dedicated account established between the Serbian government and

Commonwealth Bank. Please visit the 'Embassy of the Republic of Serbia, Canberra, Australia' website (www.canberra.mfa.gov.rs), or the AGES website (www.ageserbia.com) for additional information.

This is my last editorial piece. I assumed the role of Editor in Issue 159, with great trepidation and enthusiasm – adopting my own particular style, as did my predecessors – whilst being ever mindful of the responsibilities bestowed upon me by the ASEG Federal Executive. As I relinquish my duties, I end the last of three positions which I held in service to the ASEG: the other two being Victorian Branch Secretary and Social & Events Chair to the Melbourne ASEG-PESA IGC&E 2013. Above all, I thank our readership, and my fellow ASEG members, along with my friends and colleagues, for their support and granting me the wonderful opportunity to contribute to this prestigious society. *Adieu!*

Next issue... please welcome our New Editor of *Preview Magazine*, Lisa Worrall – may her experience be as fulfilling and as enjoyable as my own.

Call for Associate Editors: *Preview Magazine*

Expressions of interest are sought from ASEG members to fill multiple positions as Associate Editor for the following columns: Industry News; Canberra Observed and Minerals & Environment. Successful applicants shall be required to independently source material and submit quality articles to be overseen by the Editor, whilst adhering to stringent publication schedules for the bimonthly publication.

Interested persons are encouraged to contact the Editor of *Preview*, Lisa Worrall, by email: previeweditor@aseg.org.au.

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