



## **Czech geographers participated at the conference 'Geography 2050: Powering Our Future Planet'**

A prestigious international conference called 'Geography 2050: Powering Our Future Planet' was held at Columbia University in the City of New York on November 15-16, 2018.

Geography 2050 is a multi-year, high-level strategic dialog among thought leaders from academia, government, and the world of business. Organized by the American Geographical Society (AGS) in 2014, the purpose of this continuing dialog is to facilitate discussion of the major forces that will shape our planet's future. The topics of the previous conferences were 'Mounting an Expedition to the Future', 'Exploring Our Future in an Urbanized World', 'Envisioning a Sustainable Planet', and 'The Future of Mobility'.

In 2018, the key topic is Energy, which will undoubtedly be one of the most important factors influencing geopolitics, environmental quality, transportation routes, military conflicts, standards of living, world economies, food production, technical innovation, and the mass movement of people. Because of the energy's pivotal role in the future of the human species, the theme of this year's Geography 2050 Symposium is 'Powering Our Future Planet'.



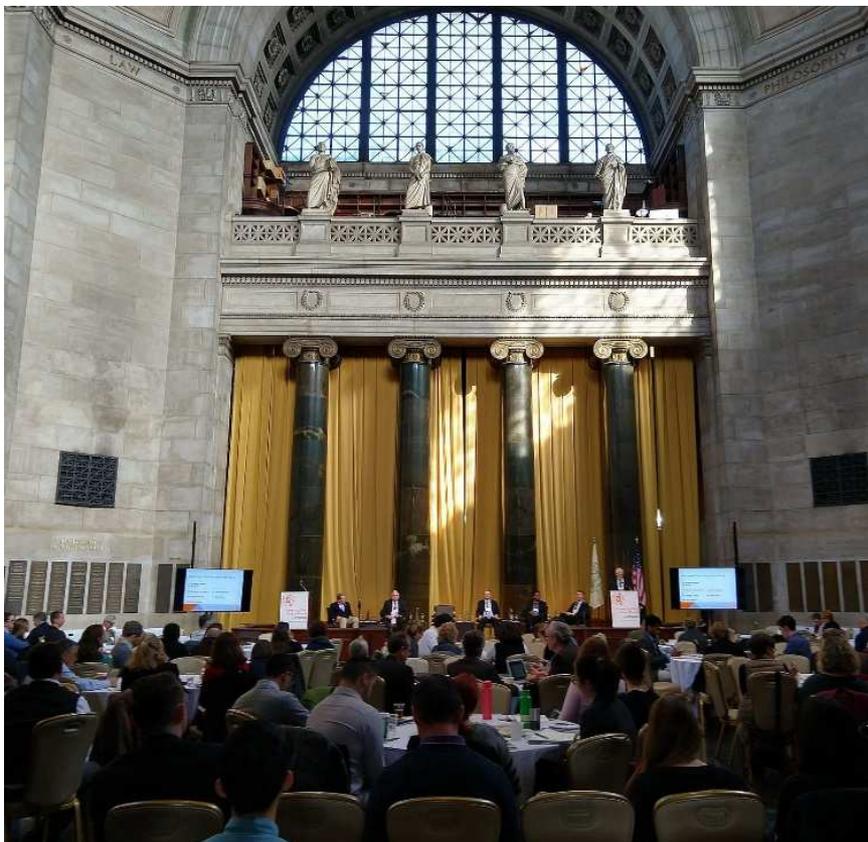
Obr. 1: Low Memorial Library of the Columbia University with remains of snow from the record pre-winter snowstorm of November 15

The conference was attended by more than 200 people, including academics and researchers, experts from international organizations, government institutions and public administration (e.g., The World Bank, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Citizens for Affordable Energy), non-governmental organizations (Foundation for Climate Restoration and the Healthy Climate Alliance, Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources), representatives of companies from business sphere (East View Geospatial, Viziv Technologies, First Solar Inc., American Wind Energy Association) and

teachers of geography at secondary schools. There the US participants dominated, followed by researchers from several Chinese universities. This reflects current global trends in energy innovations diffusion and implementation of alternative technologies where China and the US are the world leaders in renewable energy production.

As the only geographers from Europe, the conference was actively attended by Bohumil Frantál and Stanislav Martínát, who in their presentations reported on current trends, challenges and problems related to the development of renewable energy sources (specifically repowering wind farms and biogas production) in Central Europe.

Lectures were grouped into several plenary sessions, including themes of „Environmental Consequences of Energy Supply and Demand“, „Geopolitics of Energy Systems“, „Emerging Energy Technologies“, „Geospatial Technologies and Energy“, „Social Dimensions of Energy Access“ and „Energy Adaptation Strategies“. Specific form of plenary sessions were ‘Lightning presentations’, where the purpose of presenters was to present the themes and results of their projects in the form of short, visually attractive presentations (20 slides/5 minutes).



Obr. 2: Dr. Jerome Dobson (emeritní prezident AGS) zahajuje plenární sekci  
“Geospatial Technologies and Energy“

More information about the conference is available at <http://2018.geography2050.org/> and the call for papers for the next conference in 2019 on “Borders and a Borderless World“ is available at <http://2019.geography2050.org/>

written by Bohumil Frantál