



## **How a professional interest of scientists for music has helped to develop geoethics and cross-cultural differences exchange**

Josef Novak (1), Tokio Ohska (2), and Vaclav Nemec (3)

(1) Former Opera director, guest for staging operas, guest teacher: Prague Conservatory, Janacek Academy Brno, Sibelius Academy Helsinki, Opera department Vancouver University; Cernosice, Czech Republic , (2) High Energy Accelerator Research Organization, 1-1, Oho, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-0801, Japan , (3) Vice-president and Secretary of the Bedrich Smetana Society; Prague, Czech Republic

Let us start with a story of the conservatory in Prague where a Czech student Jan Snitil met a Japanese girl Masako Nakajima. Their marriage helped to initiate a cultural exchange between their countries of birth. Later Jan Snitil as the conductor of the Opera house in Opava with the help of a NPO group under his wife had a considerable success in introducing the Czech opera Dalibor (from Bedrich Smetana; stage director Josef Novak) in Japan and by realizing the first performance of the Japanese opera "Juzuru" (stage director T. Ohska) in Opava. This brought together both respective stage directors. The intensifying interest of T. Ohska for the operas of Smetana inspired J. Novak to arrange in Prague his meeting with Vaclav Nemec well known for his promotion work of the great Czech composer. In his professional career Vaclav Nemec is the internationally known Earth scientist specialized since early 1960's in the field of mathematical geology (later also in tectonics) and since 1991 respected as the "Father of Geoethics". At the meeting Nemec recognized Ohska as a Physics Professor specialized in nuclear physics and attracted him for an active participation in the field of geoethics. Prof. Ohska prepared valuable presentations for the international session on geoethics at Pribram (2011) and especially for the International Geological Congress in Brisbane (2012). At Pribram in the course of a social party Lidmila Nemcova (co-convenor of the meeting) introduced Prof. Ohska to Waclaw Demecki, Chancellor of the Higher School of Management in Legnica (Poland). Demecki has been inviting Ohska for special lectures on science as well as on cultural heritage of Japan. Professor Ohska arranges his visits to Poland through Prague where he can meet with Novak and Nemec to discuss the staging of the last opera of Smetana "Devil's Wall". Nemec in his research had finally deciphered (2012, i.e. 130 years after the first performance) the "mystery" of this opera: the composer put away one third of the original libretto and – keeping it in secret – changed the opera to have a flavour of his personal confession/autobiography. New points of view have united all three colleagues for a new common project how to present this beautiful work under a completely new light. What an interesting example of a highly effective mix of cultural and scientific activities!