



Plenary Session 4:

The Alps at the boundary of Africa and Europe: Threats and opportunities from an extraordinary geologic setting

Moderator: Hans-Peter Bunge (D-Munich)

Concept:

The Alps owe their very existence to the convergence of the African and European plate. But their natural beauty comes at a price. Earthquakes, landslides, glacier and permafrost hazards pose serious threats to the safety of the region and its cities. The danger is made all the more potent by concentration of the population into the major alpine valleys, a high degree of industrialization and rather low preparedness. Yet there is also opportunity coming from the concentration of tectonic forces in the form of great potential for geothermal energy. The alpine foreland regions have significant proven geothermal energy. The session will address and discuss the many open questions and opportunities of the geologic setting of the alps for planners, engineers and researchers.