The Roland Eötvös Commemorative Year in Slovakia

The 100\textsuperscript{th} anniversary of Roland Eötvös (in Hungarian: Eötvös Loránd, 1848-1919) physicist, geophysicist and innovator of higher education is commemorated in association with UNESCO. In the framework of the Roland Eötvös Commemorative Year, geophysicists, geologists and petroleum experts from Budapest, Bratislava, Bucharest, Zagreb, Sopron, Miskolc and Zalaegerszeg all met in Gbely (Slovakia). 103 years ago, a world-first event took place in Gbely (in Hungarian: Egbell). In 1916, at the urging of Hugó Böckh, geologist, head of department at the Ministry of Finance (later director of the Hungarian Royal Geological Institute), Roland Eötvös and his colleagues proved the usefulness of the Eötvös torsion balance in exploring hydrocarbon-bearing geological structures. Later, in the 1920s, the geophysical method proposed by Eötvös made tremendous careers all around the world. Outlining the gravitational image of the Carpathian Basin was still Eötvös’s dream; the organization of the October 17 conference was an idea of the Association of Hungarian Geophysicists. The event, held at the House of Culture in Gbely, summarized some new theoretical and practical achievements in gravitational geophysics. Among the achievements of the Eötvös Commemorative Year (www.eotvos100.hu), a virtual tour of the Eötvös Loránd Memorial Collection and the digital transformation of stereographic photographs took by Roland Eötvös were also presented. Each speaker received an Eötvös commemorative coin. The organizers sent an Eötvös silver coin to the 80\textsuperscript{th} birthday of geologist Emil Constantinescu, an admirer of Eötvös, the President of Romania from 1996 to 2000.

Opening address by Gábor Zelei (president of the Association of Hungarian Geophysicists)
János Kiss (Hungarian Mining and Geological Survey)

Participants with the original measurement protocol made by geologist Simon Papp in 1916 and other related documents, preserved by the Hungarian Museum of Oil and Gas Industry (Zalaegerszeg).

In the middle: Jozef Levoča, Director of Exploration and Production Division of NAFTA a.s.
Two days later, next to Banská Štiavnica, an Eötvös 100 plaque inauguration took place, in cooperation of the City of Banská Štiavnica, Geoclub Šobov, the Association of Mining Societies and Guilds of Slovakia (Združenia baníckych spolkov a cechov Slovenska), the Eötvös Loránd Geophysical Foundation, Association of Hungarian Geophysicists, Hungarian Mining and Metallurgical Association. The ceremony was held at the junction of Tajch Červená studňa, at the starting point of the hiking tour, named in 1896 after Roland Eötvös. The ceremony was honoured with personal presence by Nadežda Babíaková, Mayor of Banská Štiavnica and
Andrea Fülöp, Consul of Hungary to Slovakia. Lőránd Eötvös means a cohesion force for geoscientists and tourists alike in the Carpathian Basin. Roland Eötvös, as Minister of Religion and Public Education, declared: “...in very delicate cases we take action tactfully, and preferably we do nothing that would hurt us if it happened to us” (1894)
The Roland Eötvös commemorative rock and plaque in Banská Štiavnica, on 19 October, 2019

Andrea Fülöp (Consul of Hungary) and László Szarka (Chair of the Eötvös 100 Coordination Team)
Gábor Zelei acknowledges his contribution to Loránt Vojcek, owner of Geoclub Šobov with an Eötvös commemorative coin

These events will be followed by further cross-border Eötvös 100 events (in Vojvodina and Transylvania) - in late October and early November.

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