

Health, Environment and Development *Introduction to this issue of GeoJournal*

One of the main aims of the Commission on Health, Environment and Development of the International Geographical Union is to create opportunities for scientists from all nations to meet, discuss and communicate research problems and results. In order to achieve this objective, meetings are organized in all continents. In 1995 and 1996, a number of symposia on the geography of health took place within the framework of IGU conferences. These included the IGU Regional Conference in Latin America and Caribbean Countries in La Havana (Cuba) from 31 July to 5 August 1995; the IGU Conference on Global Changes and Geography in Moscow (Russia) from 14–18 August 1995, the International Conference on Environment, Life Elements and Health-Longevity, Beijing, PRC, from May 5–10 1996, and the 28th International Geographical Congress in The Hague (Netherlands) from 4–10 August 1996. A selection of papers presented during three of these conferences has been submitted, subjected to peer review and appears in this special issue of *GeoJournal*. This forms part of the Commission's key role in encouraging research and dissemination, particularly by scientists from developing and transitional countries, also fostering a network of communication worldwide amongst researches in the environment and development aspects of health.

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