

International Geosport tournament at the GEOZENTRUM Hannover

The international Geosport tournament 2010 in Hannover finished with a victory by the Czech Geological Survey (CGS). The host BGR, together with athletic colleagues from the State Authority for Mining, Energy and Geology (LBEG) and the Leibniz Institute for Applied Geophysics (LIAG), bundled their sporting resources within the GEOZENTRUM Hannover team (GZH) and came in second place.



Fig. 1: Big round of applause at the awards ceremony in the Geozentrum canteen.

Over 120 scientists, engineers and technicians from four countries fought in five disciplines for points, goals and seconds. In addition to the victorious Czech team and the host team, the four-day Geosport tournament also involved teams from the French Geological Survey (BRGM) and the Polish Geological survey (PGI). The competition takes place every two years, being hosted alternately by the four national geological surveys and their affiliated sports associations.

The SBL-Bodenforschung e.V. sports association based at the GEOZENTRUM organised this year's meeting, and added a special new challenge to the competition programme by including a dragon boat race alongside the four classic disciplines of football, tennis, volleyball and badminton. The race on the Maschsee lake in the middle of Hannover, which was preceded by a welcome speech from Hannover's mayor Ingrid Lange, was the spectacular highlight of this competition of sporting power and stamina. The Czech team pipped the host team at the post by a tiny margin to win the first discipline, laying the foundations for its subsequent overall win.



Fig. 2: The Czech team squeaked in first at the dragon boat race on the Maschsee.

The sporting scientists enthusiastically celebrated the end of the competition at the awards ceremony in the GEOZENTRUM canteen. The Czech team contributed beer, their French colleagues donated wine. In the presence of BRGM Director Jacques Varet, PGI Deputy Director Dr. Grzegorz Pienkowski and BGR President Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Kämpel, thunderous applause greeted the head of the Czech delegation, Zdenek Novotny, when he announced their willingness to organise the international Geosport tournament 2012 in Prague.



Fig. 3: The volleyball tournament was also full of excitement.

This now traditional sports event was the brain child of the former president of the BGR and the former Niedersachsen Geological Survey Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Martini. The Geosport tournaments began in 1968 with a football match between Czech and German staff from the two institutions. Tournaments have taken place regularly since 1978. "Many friendships have developed over the years," says Hajo Schnier, the main organiser of this year's meeting. This is helped by the informal

atmosphere of the tournaments – including accommodating some of the guests from Prague, Orléans and Warsaw in the homes of GEOZENTRUM staff. Schnier: “In this way, the Geosport meeting makes a small contribution to international understanding and breaking down barriers in Europe.”