



Foreword



Honored audience!

We have organized this scientific manifestation from three main reasons:

- the critical status of rural in Romania;
- conceptual and methodological vagueness in the approach of rural study and in what concerns its definition.

The third reason consist in the fact in the year 2000, the 29th Congress of U.I.G. will take place at Seoul – Korea and it will bring together, in the “country of peaceful mornings” wellknown all over the world. We dedicate our symposium to this exceptional event of the end of millenium.

We wish our gathering here would be a sincere and modest moral support and, at the same time a commitment to attend the symposium our Korean colleagues are working on. Though this highly elevated scientific meeting, the geographical world will step into the third millenium. Why here? Because this place offered me support. Turda is also the place in which I have attended the secondary school and Micești is my native village.

I consider your answer, reflected in your presence at this symposium, an appreciation of our efforts in the rural field study. I am very honoured by your participation here, for which I thank you very much. The required questionnaire spotlights the diverse frame of the manifestation and presentation of rural space European level.

This symposium is the result of our initiatives and efforts, but it couldn't took place without the support and direct implication of the Turda municipality major, my former colleague from secondary school, Economist Engineer Virgil Băsiu, to whom adress my first and most sincere thanks.

I am thankful to the vicemajor, Economist Tudor Ștefănie and Economist Didinel Presecan who put at our disposal all their goodwill, material basis and organizational skills. I also thank to Professor Vasile Miclăuș, member of Romanian

Parliament, for the moral and logistical support. In our collaboration and in their support I see a reflection of the organizational synergy of my generation, some solid links established during the period of our secondary studies at Mihai Viteazul secondary school from Turda.

I also thank our foreign colleagues that spent money and energy to honour the works of our symposium with their presence and scientifically prestige.

I also thank to the leadership of “Babeș-Bolyai” University and the Faculty of Geography for the moral support given to my organizational and scientific approach.

I address the same sincere thanks to my colleagues from the university centres in the field from the country, to the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Public Work and Territory Aménagement (M.L.P.A.T.), Cluj county Prefecture, and not in the last turn, to my distinguished co-workers within PHARE PROGRAM “The Rural Development in Romania”.

Thanks to the citizens of Turda for their sympathy and to all people present here.

In my opening discourse I also thank our generous sponsors: **Sticla-Turda, Napolact, Terapia-Cluj, Samus-Dej, Oncos-Cluj, Prodivinalco-Cluj, Paniro-Cluj, Mucart-Cluj, H Caffé-Cluj and Bewerege-Cluj.**

And finally, let me introduce our foreign guests from **Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, England Germany, Hungary, Italy, Republic of Moldavia, Poland, Russia, Ukraine and Yugoslavia.**

I declare open the works of the International Symposium “**Rural Space and Regional Development**”, Turda-Micești, July, 1-5, 1998.

**Organizer,
Professor Univ. Dr. Vasile Surd**