## High Geothermal Prospect in North-Eastern Morocco

**A.** Correia<sup>1</sup>, J. Carneiro<sup>1</sup>, A. Rimi<sup>2</sup>, Y. Zarhloule<sup>3</sup>, N. EL Rharnathi<sup>3</sup>, M. Boughriba<sup>3</sup>, and B. EL Houadi<sup>4</sup> Geophysical Centre of Evora, University of Evora, Rua Romao Ramalho 59, 7000-671 EVORA, Portugal

- <sup>2</sup> Scientific Institute, Dept. Physics of the Globe, B.P. 703, Rabat, Morocco
- <sup>3</sup> Laboratory of Hydrogeology-Environment, Faculty of Sciences, Oujda, Morocco
- <sup>4</sup> Hydraulic Basin Agency of Moulouya, Oujda, Morocco

New temperature data obtained in 2007 in a hydrogeological borehole (1100 m deep) near Berkane has revealed an average geothermal gradient of about 126 °C/km at depths greater than 300 m. This result confirms the average geothermal gradient estimated in a mining borehole located about 30 km west of the Berkane borehole, in which water with temperatures about 96 °C was reached at a depth of about 700 m. The new geothermal gradient, exceeding by far the ones already determined for this Moroccan area allows thinking about the possibility of programs for using high temperature waters in north-eastern Morocco.