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Fadi Nader

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UIS-BULLETIN

Union Internationale de Spéléologie

2008, volume 51, number 3

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*Message from
Andy Eavis
UIS President*



During the summer I had the great pleasure of attending two excellent caving meetings.

The first was the European Congress of Speleology in The Vercors, France – August 23rd to 30th. This Congress was held in grand style with more than 2000 delegates. The village of Lans en Vercors turned out to be an excellent venue.

The congress started with a world record Tyrolean of 1.2 km. Many cavers took part in this crossing of a side valley to the Bourne Gorge which was certainly pretty impressive.

There were many simultaneous lectures presented during the week, over 300 in total. There were also picture competitions, multi-media presentations etc. Much on the lines of a normal UIS Congress.



Impressum

<http://www.uis-speleo.org/>

Editor in Chief: Fadi Nader (UIS, Secretary General). Collaborators: Bernard Lips (France), Carlos Benedetto (Argentina), Michael Laumanns (Germany), Patrick Deriaz (Switzerland), Riccardo Dall'Acqua (Italy).

Many caves in the Vercors were made available to delegates and it is reported that more than 500 people got down the Gouffre Berger.

My overall impression of this Congress was that it was very well received, very enjoyable and filled a gap between European UIS Congresses. This format would seem to make sense for the future with a much smaller Euro Speleo Forum possibly on a one or two year basis as well.

The second meeting I attended was also very enjoyable and considerably different being based on the volcanic island of Jeju, off the South coast of South Korea. This was the venue for the two yearly meeting of the Vulcanospeleological Commission of the UIS. It was also used by our Bureau for its annual meeting.

The Sunshine Hotel proved an excellent venue and agenda items included reports on FE-ALC Congress in Argentina, the Baltic Speleological Congress and General Assembly of the European Union of Speleology, a meeting in Paris of the Bureau of the European Union attending by the General Secretary and President of UIS and the European Congress in the Vercors that I have already mentioned.

Obviously a major agenda item was the 15th International Congress of Speleology in Kerrville, Texas, next year and it would seem that things are generally going well to plan.

Cooperation between UIS and UNESCO was discussed at some length as were other cave and karst-environmental related items.

The meeting was pleased to welcome David Summers of the International Show Caves Association and continues the cooperation between ISCA and the UIS. It is hoped that there will be a good turn out of ISCA members at the International Congress.

The very important Code of Ethics was discussed at length and further changes were proposed. The agreement for the Karst Information Portal was signed and the UIS Bureau internet forum mentioned.

There was discussion on the commissions and there must be moves to strengthen these into the future.

A further meeting on UIS finances is taking place in Slovenia this December. The UIS with relation to regions such as Europe, Latin and Central America, Middle East and Pacific Rim were discussed.

Due time was spent talking about World Heritage sites which is clearly a major item of UIS Business. In all, two excellent events, thoroughly enjoyed by everybody involved not to mention some wonderful caving limestone France and lava Jeju. Andy Eavis, 20th November 08



The 15th ICS booth at the Vercors 2008 Congress with George Veni, Sue and Urs Wildmer (facing the camera). Michel Siffre is also seen in this photograph



Pilgrimage to Postojna (SLOVENIA)

3 – 6 December 2008

Andy Eavis, Pavel Bosak, Fadi Nader, and Andrej Mihevc

Following the decision of the UIS Bureau during the Jeju meeting (Republic of Korea; 6-7 September 2008), a sub-committee (consisting of Andy Eavis – President, Pavel Bosak – Vice President, Fadi Nader – Secretary, and Andrej Mihevc – Adjunct Secretary) was formed to visit the UIS headquarter in Postojna (Slovenia) and take care of the financial issues of the UIS.



Fadi Nader, Andrej Mihevc, Andy Eavis, and Pavel Bosak (from left to right) in the Congress Hall inside the Postojna Cave (Slovenia).

This was termed by Andy Eavis as the “Pilgrimage to Postojna” as for him and Fadi Nader it was the first visit – and will not be the last.

Overwhelming feelings that cannot be expressed in words filled our hearts as we stood in the Congress Hall in Postojna Cave and took a memorable photograph some forty-three years after the opening ceremony of the 4th International Congress of Speleology on the 12th of September 1965, which concluded with the foundation of the UIS – an international organization that is conceived and achieved by and for cavers from all over the world.

Another important place to visit was the UIS permanent headquarter established in the Karst Research Institute of Slovenia since June 22, 2002. There, we also had the meetings of the sub-committee (mentioned above) and we discussed the financial status of UIS. Our bank accounts situation was reviewed (Total of 38,345.54 US Dollars and 2,850.21 Euros; on the 30th November 2008) and decisions to support the International Journal of Speleology (IJS) with 5,000 US Dollars and the Bibliography Commission with 1,500 Euros were executed. Measures were taken in order to optimize the interests we get from our deposited money.

The sub-committee highlights previous decisions and recommendations which are related to member-countries fees:

- The importance for all member-countries to settle their payments (old and actual) in the upcoming ICS in Kerrville (July, 2009) – mode of payment: cash.
- The request for member-countries of category C (fees= 50 US Dollars per year) to settle their payments only by cash during congresses and not through bank transfer.



The Karst Research Institute of Slovenia which hosts the permanent headquarter of the UIS.



Pavel Bosak working on archives in the UIS office (Postojna, Slovenia).



Plate on the front-door of the Karst Research Institute with the UIS logo.

Of course, such a visit to Postojna did not spare local caves, cavers and karst from the UIS delegation.

On Wednesday (December 3, 2008) evening, the Karst Cadastral office (held by cavers of the Speleological Association of Slovenia, JZS) which is established in anti-nuclear war shelter (very safe place) in Ljubljana, was visited and dr. Miha Cekada (head of Cave Register and UIS deputy country delegate) explained how the caves information are recorded. Interesting discussions followed concerning the application of the UIS Code of Ethics.

On Thursday (December 4, 2008), the breathtaking (“wild” underground canyon) Škocjanske Jame was visited. This was followed by lunch with Dr. Tadej Slabe (head of the Karst Research Institute in Postojna). Then, we met dr. Mladen Garasic (UIS country deputy of Croatia) and Boris Watz (Croatia) who came from Zagreb.

On Friday (December 5, 2008), the beautiful Postojna Cave was visited followed by a courteous lunch with Mr. Peter Štefin (Head of Marketing Department and Vice-President of ISCA). Then, UIS Financial status was discussed in the afternoon. In the evening, we attended the 50th anniversary of the Jamarsko Društvo Sežana and visited the show cave managed by this club (Vilenica cave) which is reported as the first show cave in the world. This evening was an excellent occasion to meet Slovenian base cavers and young speleologists. Andy Eavis addressed the cavers by sharing his feelings about their wonderful caves and karst, and inviting them to the next ICS in Kerrville (Texas – USA) in July 2009.

The next and final day (Saturday December 6, 2008), Andrej Mihevc took us on a trip throughout the Slovenian Karst, which made it clear that we need to come back to this beautiful country and that the term “Pilgrimage to Slovenia” is definitely appropriate for all cave and karst lovers. Hence, the enchanting Predjama castle, the furious Planinska Jama with its flooded spring, the Malni karstic springs with clear waters, the collapse dolinas (and bunkers) of Unška Koliševka, the natural bridges of Rakov Škocjan, the wide Cerknica Polje, collapse dolinas of Drnulca, and the springs of Ljubljana river, were all visited and commented by Andrej Mihevc. It was another wonderful day in Slovenia.

Finally, we would like to thank the Karst Research Institute of Slovenia and all cavers of Slovenia for their warm welcoming.

Fadi Nader
UIS, Secretary General



UIS Bureau meeting on Jeju island (Republic of Korea) – September 6 and 7, 2008.

15th International Congress of Speleology: Important Deadlines

By George Veni

The International Congress of Speleology (ICS) is the world's premier speleological event. An event of the International Union of Speleology, it is held once every four years in a location selected by the delegates of the UIS member nations. The next ICS will be held in Kerrville, Texas, USA on 19-26 July 2009, in combination with the U.S. National Speleological Society Convention. An estimated 2,000 people from nearly 60 countries are expected to attend to share the results of their latest exploration, research, and techniques.

We hope you are planning to attend the ICS and remind you of the following deadlines to help you plan and participate as easily as possible:

1 December 2008: Abstracts are due for all papers

1 January 2009: Notification of acceptance of abstracts

31 January 2009: Last day to register at \$250

1 February 2009: Full papers due; registration must be paid to submit papers

1 March 2009: All entries due for the SpeleMedia Salon

31 March 2009: Last day to reserve camping site at Kerrville-Schreiner Park before remaining camp spaces are open to the public (this does not affect the main camping at Schreiner University)

1 April 2009: Last day to reserve rooms for meetings

7 April 2009: Final version of papers due following review and possible revision

16 April 2009: Registration for pre-ICS, post-ICS, and Wednesday field trips partially closes; only remains open for any remaining spaces on the trips

25 April 2009: All entries due for the Cover Art Salon

1 May 2009: All entries due for the Photo Salon and Print Salon

1 June 2009: Last day to register at \$275

1 June 2009: All entries due for the Ballad and Song Salon, Multimedia Salon, and SpeleoArts Salon

11 July 2009: All mail-in entries due for the Symbolic Devices Salon and T-Shirt Salon

The ICS 2nd Circular is posted on the website. Use it as a guide and then look at the website for complete details: www.ics2009.us. Don't forget to watch the 15-minute video on the website to see Kerrville and more of what the 15th ICS has to offer. If you still have questions, please contact us at: 15th ICS, P.O. Box 691965, San Antonio, Texas 78269 USA, 001-413-383-2276 (fax), secretary@ics2009.us or johnmoses@excite.com.



Minutes of the UIS Assembly General

14th International Congress of Speleology

(Kalamos – Greece)

First session, August 22, 2005

Kalamos (Attika), Greece, Dolphin Hotel

The Assembly General was opened by the UIS Secretary General, Mr. Pavel Bosák by the statement of the number of present national delegates of member countries. In the moment of the opening, totally 33 member-countries (out of 56) were registered (Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Spain, USA, France, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Mexico, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, Venezuela). During the session, other delegates of two member countries appeared (Korea, New Zealand, no voting). There were present also delegates of member countries with delay in payment more than three years, which could not vote (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Romania).

The opening was followed by the presentation of the UIS President, Mr. José Ayrton Labegalini, concerning the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the UIS and presentation achievements and failures of the UIS Bureau in time between the 13th and 14th International Congresses of Speleology, i.e. for the period of July 2001 to August 2005. He declared the Assembly General as opened. After opening, all participants took a while of silence for all cavers and scientists who left the international community between congresses (e.g., Linhua Song, China, George Huppert, USA, Vladimír Panoš, Czech Republic, Stanisław Dnulynski, Poland, László Jakucs and Attila Kósa, Hungary, Jacques Choppy, France, Guy-Christian Collet, France and Brazil, Takanori Ogawa, Japan).

The Assembly General approved the minutes of the last Assemblies General from Brasilia, DF, Brazil 2001 by 31 votes for with no votes against or abstained.

The Secretary General of the UIS presented his report. After the Departments, Commission,

Working Group and Committee representatives presented reports and information on the activity: Department of Protection (Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns), Commission on Physico-Chemistry and Hydrogeology of Karst (Yavor Shopov), Commission on Glacial Caves and Karst of Polar Regions (Giovanni Badino), Commission on Volcanic Caves (Jan Paul van der Pas), Commission on Archaeology and Palaeontology of Caves (David Hubbard), Permanent Commission on Speleotherapy (Hubert Trimmel), Commission on Hydrogeology of Karst and Speleogenesis (Pavel Bosák), Commission on Pseudokarst (Jan Paul van der Pas), Commission on Bibliography (Patrick Deriaz), Commission on Karst Atlas (Hubert Trimmel), Informatics Commission (Peter Matthews), Commission on History of Speleology (Pavel Bosák), Rescue Commission (André Slagmolen), Commission on Cave Diving (Holandan), Commission on Statute (Claude Mouret). The Assembly General appreciated the activity of Mr. André Slagmolen as the founder and the first President of the Rescue Commission.

The Assembly General elected two auditors: Mr. Andrew Eavis (Great Britain) and Mrs. Grace Matts (Australia). They were elected, both, by 32 votes for, with no vote against and no abstention.

The Assembly General elected the Commission for the elections of the new UIS Bureau composed of Mr. Arrigo A. Cigna (Italy), Mrs. Linda Gentry el Dash (Brazil), and Mr. William White (USA) by 30 votes, no against, and 2 abstentions.

Mr. George Veni (USA) presented the candidature for the 15th Congress of Speleology in Texas, USA 2009.

Two new member countries were admitted to the UIS on the basis of the UIS Bureau recommendation: Pakistan, presented by Mr. Fadi Nader (20 votes for, no vote against

and no abstention) and Serbia and Monte Negro, presented by Mr. Uroš Aksamovis (30 votes for, no vote against, 1 abstention).

Several materials were presented to the Assembly General. Mr. Pavel Bosák presented the UIS Bureau proposal to grammar corrections of the UIS Statutes in French language and translations of the UIS Statutes to English, German, Italian, Spanish, Russian and Arabic. Mrs. Julia James presented the UIS Prizes - the best discovery, the best book and the best poster.

At the end of the first session, three pieces of information were added. The Director of the Public Relations Department of the Samcheok City Hall presented the message of the Samcheok city Mayor, Mr. Kim Il Dong. Mr. Andrej Mihevc presented the establishment of the stable address of the UIS in Postojna, Slovenia on September 19, 2002. New Editor-in-Chief of the prestigious UIS journal – International Journal of Speleology – Mr. Jo de Wale – presented new editorial policy and new face of the journal. The session was closed at 15:15 local time.

Second session, August 27, 2005

Kalamos (Attika), Greece, Dolphin Hotel

The second session of the Assembly General of the UIS was opened and chaired by P. Bosák on 14:45. At the moment of the opening, totally 38 member states were registered (Germany, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Spain, USA, France, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Mexico, Norway, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Korea, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, Venezuela), one country (Serbia) appeared a little bit later, so totally 39 member countries had the right to vote. The agenda of the Assembly General was approved by voting (38 voices for, 0 against, 0 abstention) owing to substantial changes in comparison with the proposal from August 21, 2005. Mr. Arrigo A. Cigna on behalf of Advisory

Committee presented the Committee statement to proposed grammar corrections of the French text of the UIS Statutes and Memorandum of understanding between the ISCA and the UIS. The new version of the UIS Statute in French language was approved by voting: 39 votes for, 0 against and 0 abstention. The Memorandum was approved by voting: 35 votes for, 0 against, 4 abstentions. Two budget auditors (Mr. Andrew James Eavis, Great Britain and Mrs. Grace Matts, Australia) reported on the result of the audit report (Appendix). Mr. Pavel Bosák is to be commended for his meticulous record keeping and his dedication. Approving voting resulted as follows: 39 votes for acceptance, 0 against and 0 abstention, so the audit report was accepted as it obtained absolute majority of votes approving properly evidenced financing of the UIS.

Information concerning speleological events between the International Congresses of Speleology dealt with possible organization of the European Regional Conference on Speleology (European Congress on Speleology), as the only candidate for the 2009 International Congress of Speleology is the USA. The Speleological Federation of the European Union promised to take care on selection of the proper place. The election of country organizing the 15th International Congress of Speleology in 2009 started by a short presentation of Mr. George Veni of the only candidate – the USA. The organizing country was then elected: 39 votes for, 0 against and 0 abstention. The elections of the New UIS Bureau was introduced by Mr. Arrigo A. Cigna by the statement of the Advisory Committee to the possibility of elections of non-present candidates. The Committee supported the possibility to elect physically non-present candidates owing to problems with Congress organization. The Secretary General, Mr. Pavel Bosák explained the voting procedure following the UIS Constitution (20 votes minimum for election in the first round). Election Commission then organized the voting. Mr. Arrigo A. Cigna introduced candidate for the UIS President (Mr. Andrew James Eavis, Great Britain). Mr. Eavis was elected the UIS President in the first round on 39 voting cards: 39 votes for, 0 against and 0 abstention. After Mr. Arrigo A. Cigna presented candi-

dates for the UIS Vice-Presidents (Mr. Pavel Bosák, Czech Republic and Mr. Aleksander Klimchouk, Ukraine). Totally 39 voting cards were collected: 2 voting cards were invalid. Mr. Aleksander Klimchouk obtained 35 votes and Mr. Pavel Bosák obtained 32 votes. Both were elected in the first round. After Mr. Arrigo A. Cigna presented the only nomination to the UIS Secretary General (Mr. Fadi Nader, Lebanon). On 39 voting cards Mr. Nader obtained 34 votes for, with 5 invalid cards. After Mr. Arrigo A. Cigna presented 15 nominations for 8 positions of the UIS Secretaries Adjunct: Mr. Giovanni BADINO (Italy), Mr. Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS (Belgium), Mr. Carlos BENEDETTO (Argentina), Mr. Petar K. BERON (Bulgaria), Mrs. Katalin BOLNER-TAKÁCSNÉ (Hungary), Mr. Mladen GARASIĆ (Croatia), Mr. Roman HAPKA (Switzerland), Mr. Stein-Erik LAURITZEN (Norway), Mr. Efraim MERCADO (Puerto Rico), Mr. Andrej MIHEVC (Slovenia), Mr. Juan MONTAÑO (Mexico), Mr. Claude MOURET (France), Mr. George VENI (USA), Mr. Paul WILLIAMS (New Zealand), and Mr. Kyung Sik WOO (Korea). From 39 collected voting cards, 2 were invalid. In the first round, following candidates were elected: Mr. George VENI (28 votes), Mr. Andrej MIHEVC (27 votes), Mr. Carlos BENEDETTO (24 votes), Mr. Kyung Sik WOO (23 votes) and Mr. Paul WILLIAMS (21 votes). Between the 1st and 2nd round of elections of Secretaries Adjunct, new UIS President, Mr. Andrew James EAVIS, presented his short statement. The representatives of The Hellenic Speleological Society and Hellenic Speleological Federation presented acknowledgements and gifts to UIS Bureau members and all national delegates. Mr. Andrew James Eavis was elected Honorary Member of the Hellenic Speleological Society. In the 2nd round of elections of Secretaries Adjunct, 39 voting card were collected, all were valid, and following candidates were elected: Mr. Efraim MERCADO (15 votes), Mr. Roman HAPKA (13 votes), and Mr. Stein-Erik LAURITZEN (12 votes).

Mr. Pavel Bosák proposed to elect Mr. José Ayrton Labegalini, the UIS Past-President as the UIS Honorary Member, which motion was accepted unanimously by all 39 votes. In the following part of the program – Interventions and supplementary information – there were presented several points. Cuban voting delegate, Mrs. Anna M. Abraham A. proposed the separation of position of the UIS Treasurer from the position of the Secretary General (which point was accepted by approval of report of financial auditors). The Venezuelan voting delegate, Mr. Efraim Mercado (Puerto Rico), presented memorandum of the Sociedad Venezolana de Espeleología concerning unethical behaviour of Slovak and Czech cavers in Venezuela. Secretary General, Pavel Bosák, promised to deal with the problem again on the next UIS Bureau Annual Meeting 2006. National delegate of Australia, Mrs. Grace Matts, presented proposal for financing of the UIS Scientific Commissions. The lottery of voting cards of national delegates or voting representatives organized by the representative of the 15th International Congress of Speleology 2009 – Mr. George Veni – won Mr. Michał Gradziński (Poland national delegate); he obtained free participation on the Congress in the USA. The UIS President Elect – Mr. Andrew James Eavis – in a short conclusive speech summarized the Congress, excursions, scientific program, sites and other topics. He declared the Assembly General as closed on 18:45 local time. Prof. Petros Themelis, President of the Organization Committee of the 14th International Congress of Speleology, after short speech officially closed the Congress at 19:00 hours local time.

Mrs. Julia M. James presented results of the decision of the UIS Prize Committee concerning the UIS Book, Exploration, and Poster Prizes and results of Speleomedia. The program continued with the information of the UIS Commissions and Working Groups and by the approval of reports, plans and chair persons by voting. The results of voting were as follows:

Departement/ Commission/ Working Group	President	Votes for	Votes against	Abst.
Department of Protection and Management	Jean-Pierre Bartholeyens	36	0	1
Commission of Physico-Chemistry and Hydrogeology of Karst	Yavor Shopov	39	0	0
Commission on Caves in Glaciers and Karst of Polar Regions	Adolfo Eraso Romero Presented by G. Badino	36	0	1
Commission on Volcanic Caves	Jan Paul van der Pas	39	0	0
Commission on Archaeology and Palaeontology of Caves	David Hubbard Roman Hapka	39	0	0
Permanent Commission on Speleotherapy	Svetozár Dluholucký Presented by P. Bosák	39	0	0
Commission on Artificial Caves	Presented by P. Bosák	0	16	23
Working Group on Hydrothermal Karst	Presented by P. Bosák	0	30	9
Commission on Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis	Aleksander Klimchouk Presented by P. Bosák and A. Osborne	38	0	1
Commission on Cave Mineralogy	Carol Hill Presented by Charles Self	39	0	0
Commission on Pseudokarst	István Esterhász Presented by Jan Paul van der Pas	38	1	0
Commission on Bibliography	Patrick Deriaz Presented by Phillipe Häuselmann	39	0	0
Commission on Paleokarst and Speleochronology	Stein-Erik Lauritzen	39	0	0
Commission on Largest Caves	Presented by P. Bosák	32	0	7
Commission on Karst Atlas	Karl-Heinz Pfeffer Presented by P. Bosák	39	0	0
Informatics Commission	Peter Matthews	39	0	0
Commission on History of Speleology	Karl Mais Presented by P. Bosák	39	0	0
Rescue Commission	Mr. Dodelin Presented by A. Slagmolen and Mr. Dodet	39	0	0
Commission on Material and Techniques	Presented by P. Bosák	20	2	16
Commission on Cave Diving	Phillipe Brunet	39	0	0
Department of Education	Marcel Meyssonier	39	0	0

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The election of country organizing the 15th International Congress of Speleology in 2009 started by a short presentation of Mr. George Veni of the only candidate – the USA. The organizing country was then elected: 39 votes for, 0 against and 0 abstention.

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Election Commission than organized the voting. Mr. Arrigo A. Cigna introduced candidate for the UIS President (Mr. Andrew James Eavis, Great Britain). Mr. Eavis was elected the UIS President in the first round on 39 voting cards: 39 votes for, 0 against and 0 abstention.

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Prof. Petros Themelis, President of the Organization Committee of the 14th International Congress of Speleology, after short speech officially closed the Congress at 19:00 hours local time.

Auditors' Report 23rd August, 2005.

Financial Statement of the funds held in the name of the International Union of Speleology. For 2004 – 30/06/2005

Statement of Transactions from 2001 to 2005

Income	US\$	Euro	SIT	CZK
Annual Fees	19,128.10	649.01	58,000.00	
Interest	526.84	379.59	628.92	
Koper Bank (opening balance deposit)			5,000.00	
IUS logo use				1,350.00
Total Income	19,654.94	1,046.60	63,628.92	1,350.00

Expenditure

IUS Prizes	750.00			
Website	239.00			
IUS Bulletin	1,376.06			
Int. J. Speleol.	5,000.00			
IUS Commissions	500.00			
IUS Bureau exp	1,276.00			
Bank Charges	296.72			
Kopel Bank (Refund Opening Balance)			7,491.22	
Kopel Bank A/c set up fee			5,000.00	
Refund Registration Fee			5,600.00	
Secretarial Expenses				569.30
Total Expenditure	9,437.78	Nil	23,720.14	569.30
Excess	10,217.16	1,046.60	39,908.78	780.70

Assets

Cash held in bank accounts as follows;

Account	Bal@	SET\$	CZK	US\$	Euro
Koper Bank (Slovenia) opened 18/2/04	8/8/05	144,782.38			
Ceska Sportelna (Czech)	11/8/05			35,038.51	
Petty Cash (Pavel Bosak)	13/7/05		21,661.51		
*ERSTE Bank (Vienna)	18/7/05				6,400.00
*Cash held in Vienna	?			300.00	513.26
TOTAL		144,782.38	21,661.51	35,338.51	6,913.26
<i>Values in US\$</i>		<i>723.91</i>	<i>917.86</i>	<i>35,338.51</i>	<i>8,421.98</i>

* See Note 1.

Total Assets US\$45,402.26

Auditors' Statement

Having examined the documentation for the financial accounts of the International Union of Speleology we believe that, with the exception of the money held in Vienna, they present a true and fair record of the transactions of the International Union of Speleology for the period from 2004 to 30th June, 2005.

No list of assets was presented.

We are of the opinion that this organization is solvent and able to meet its financial obligations.

Signature
Signed
(Mrs Grace Matts)
Honorary Auditor

signature
.....
(Mr A Eavis)
Honorary Auditor

Notes to the audited report

1. The ERSTE Bank account held in Vienna was not presented with sufficient information to audit it. Therefore amounts related to this account are an estimate gleaned from the documentation.
2. Some of the money is held in Vienna in the form of cash.

Recommendations

1. All accounts must be held by the Secretary General while he also has the capacity of Treasurer.
2. No cash should be held outside the General Secretary/Treasurer.
3. The cash in Vienna needs to be transformed to the control of the Secretary General immediately.
4. The IUS should look at formalizing the financial procedures within their statutes so that their money is protected at all times.

To comply with the legal requirements of Slovenia the IUS must:

1. As soon as possible all accounts (except the Petty Cash) be transferred to the Kopel Bank in Slovenia as the IUS is now registered in that country.
2. When the ERSTE Bank A/c in Vienna matures on 18/7/2006 it be closed and both principal in interest transferred to the Kopel Bank account in Slovenia.
3. As IUS is now registered in Slovenia and financial reports are required to be presented to the government, it is essential that these accounts be audited annually by a qualified accountant in Slovenia.
4. When audited they will need to be approved by the Bureau each year prior to presentation to the government.
5. At each Congress of the IUS (four-yearly) a set of audited reports for the four previous years will need to be provided to each financial member of the IUS for approval at that meeting.

Rewritten from original by Pavel Bosák (including all misprints)

Minutes from the UIS Bureau session

Kalamos, Greece

1st Session, August 21, 2005, start at 15:10 local time

Present:

UIS Bureau members: José Ayrton Labegallini, Andrew James Eavis, Pavel Bosák, Roman Hapka, Andrej Mihevc, Claude Mouret, Fadi Nader, R. Armstrong L. Osborne, Abel Vale

Past-Presidents: Arrigo A. Cigna, Derek C. Ford, Hubert Trimmel

Guests: George Veni, Jean Pierre Bartholeyns

Appologized:

Aleksander Klimchouk, Adolfo Eraso Romero, Julia Mary James

(1/1) Approval of Agenda 2005

Agenda approved

(1/2) Preparation of Agenda of Assembly General 2005

Information of the UIS Senior Vice-President (A. Eavis) about the proposed program by Greek organizers in individual steps and time schedule. Information on accounting by UIS Secretary General-Treasurer (P. Bosák) with short discussion (A. Eavis, A.A. Cigna).

Presentation of countries candidating for 2009. Discussion was concentrated to immigration US policy, costs of visas. Full presentation will be 15-20 min. during the 1st Assembly General. George Veni presented the bid and he explained the reason for change of cities (Kerrville instead of San Antonio). Preparation of documents to be approved by General Assembly. It was stressed the role of Comité Consultatif in that process.

Right to vote will have only member countries without financial debts. Presentation of UIS Commissions and Working Groups – presented by C. Mouret and P. Bosák. The activity was reviewed in Hanoi. Some commission have overlapping content. It was stressed the importance of commissions for the preparation of scientific program of Int. Congresses of Speleology. It was acknowl-

edged the role of André Slagmolen (B) President of the UIS Rescue Commission for his contribution to the UIS. His role will be publicly acknowledged during the Assembly General.

Acceptation of new member countries – presented by UIS Secretary General (P. Bosák) – application from Serbia and Monte Negro. Discussion concerned item if the proposal really covers the whole federation or only Serbia. Voting for acceptance: 8+/0-/1 abstention. Item approved to be included to Assembly General for approval.

Elections of the new UIS Bureau – discussion was focused on number of Secretaries Adjunct. It was proposed to elect not changing number (8). Voting: 9+/0-/0 abst. Eight Secretaries Adjunct will be proposed to be elected by the Assembly General.

F. Nader (UIS Secretary Adjunct) informed on results of Tanzania UIS expedition and about publication of book with expedition report. More, information concerning Tunisia was obtained as well as information about correspondence of the first UIS Secretary General – A. Anavi (what is available will be delivered to archive in Postojna). It was asked to support the book print about Tanzania UIS expedition by 2,000,- USD. Voting: 9+/0-/0 abst. Support of 2,000 USD approved.

2nd Session, August 27, 2005, start at 15:10 local time

Present:

UIS Bureau members: José Ayrton Labegallini, Andrew James Eavis, Pavel Bosák, Roman Hapka, Andrej Mihevc, Claude Mouret, Fadi Nader, R. Armstrong L. Osborne, Abel Vale

Past-Presidents: Arrigo A. Cigna, Derek C. Ford

Guests: George Veni, Jean Pierre Bartholeyns

Appologized:

Aleksander Klimchouk, Adolfo Eraso Rome-

ro, Julia Mary James, Hubert Trimmel

(2/1) Bibliographical Centre in Spain (J.A. Labegalini). The official documentation centre of the UIS is in Switzerland (La Chaux-de-Fonds). It is not known who accredited them to settle up such centre.

(2/2) UISIC (P. Matthews). Commission President informed in detail about the UIS web site. It moved from Australia to Switzerland; the server is in Germany. He explained conditions of service, officers policies and other details

(2/3) Preparation of documents for approval by 2nd Assembly General. R.A.L. Osborne opened the Slovene version of the UIS Statute with Preamble, which was connected with discussion about materials prepared by the UIS President (J.A. Labegalini). There were presented new versions of the Internal Regulations (Regelement Interieur), UIS Standards for Organizers of UIS Events, UIS Support to Events, Internet Regulations and Standards for Extraordinary Assembly General (Electronic Voting). The rich discussion was concentrates especially on problems of pre-circulation before approval and connected comments, and from this resulting problems of approval (resp. if yes or not). The only document approved was Electronic voting by Bureau (9+/0-/0 abst.). UIS Secretary General explained, that the UIS Statutes knows only one document (Internal Regulations), that all documents should be merged together (in sense of the original proposal of the UIS President) and this allows to include Preamble from Slovenian version to Internal Regulations (which represent amendment to the Statutes).

(2/4) European Conference of Speleology in case when the Int. Congress of Speleology is overseas. The SFEU will be asked for collaboration on the issue.

(2/5) The procedure of elections of the new UIS Bureau were explained by detail by the Secretary General. There will be 8 Secretaries Adjunct. If not elected representatives of Slovenia and the USA, they will be invited to collaborate with the UIS Bureau in period of 2005-2009.

(2/6) The UIS Permanent Commission on Speleotherapy delivered its report. The Secretary General informed on report and plans for future.

(2/7) The organization problems of Greeks during the preparation and holding of the Int. Congress of Speleology were deeply discussed.

(2/8) Congress Proceedings. There was expressed general demand of paper version of Proceedings. Discussions on possibility of the PDF format with pagination and indexes were also carried out. The Proceedings were included in congress fees. The UIS Senior-Vice President (A. Eavis) owing to its good relations with Congress organizers was asked to negotiate the problem.

(2/9) BBS. Information concerning the state-of-the-art was obtained. The paper edition should continue. The UIS Bureau obtained demand for financial support. It was decided, that the problem will solve the new UIS Bureau.

(2/10) Agreement with the IUCN – proposal was presented. It was decided, that the problem will solve the new UIS Bureau.

The UIS Bureau during its sessions in Greece 2005 approved by voting:
Recommendation of Serbia and Monte Negro to be proposed for approval as new member country by the UIS Assembly General.

Recommendation of unchanged number of Secretaries Adjunct to be elected by the UIS Assembly General (8).

Support of 2,000 USD for the print of the book on the UIS Tanzanian Expedition.

Electronic Voting by UIS Bureau.

The UIS Bureau during its sessions in Greece 2005 decided:

That the new UIS Bureau will deal with:

Support of the BBS and editorial policy.

Agreement of the UIS with the IUCN

THE UIS PRIZES – ATHENS 2005

Publication Prizes

Special prizes

The International Union of Speleology during its 14th International Congress of Speleology, Athens, Greece, August 2005 awarded two special UIS prizes in the category on a cave or karst topics published in 2001-2005.

The Encyclopedia of Caves Edited by David C. Culver and William B. White Published by Elsevier, 2005.

Encyclopedia of Caves and Karst Science Edited by: John Gunn Published by: Fitzroy Dearborn, 2003.

Standard prize

The Report of the committee for the UIS best publication award in the above category. 5 entries were submitted.

First prize awarded to
Spéléo-karstologie et environnement en Chine.

Publisher : Fédération Française Spéléologie & Association Française de Karstologie, 2004

Editors : Richard Maire, Jean-Pierre Barbary, Zhang Shouyue, Nathalie Vanara, Jean Bottazzi

Available from Richard Maire, ADES-Dymset, Maison des Suds, CNRS, 12, esplanade des Antilles, Domaine Universitaire de Bordeaux, 33607 PESSAC cedex - France)

Franco-Chinese exploring expeditions 1997-2001. 560 pp – very well produced on glossy paper. Many illustrations (photos and cave maps) of good to excellent quality. Abstract in French, English, Mandarin. Part 1 – Systematic accounts of explorations in three provinces, on a county by county basis. Part 2 – Reports on geomorphology, speleogenesis, water chemistry, major environmental problems, and growth of ethno-tourism. Part 3 – Brief history of Chinese caving and tourism.

An honorable mention (equal 2nd and 3rd

prize)

Die St. Beatus-Höhlen

Publisher – Speleo Projects, 2004

Editor - Philipp Häuselmann

Very good account of one complex, multiphase cave in the great 'North of Lake Thun' complex of caves beautifully explored and explained in recent years. German and French with good English summaries – 233 pages plus comprehensive map supplement. Many black and white illustrations (photos, maps, technical diagrams) plus colour inserts
Part 1 – History, geology, morphology, hydrology, climate, flora and fauna, sediments
Part 2 – Detailed descriptions

Also an honorable mention (equal 2nd and 3rd prize)

Beneath the Cloud Forests – A History of Cave Exploration in Papua New Guinea

Publisher – Speleo Projects, 2003

Author – Howard M. Beck.

352 pp. Hardback. Black and white – many colour inserts. English only

Exciting accounts by one of the participants of the many cave explorations in PNG between 1964 and 2002. A book for cavers and other adventurers rather than a scientific account or a detailed catalogue of finds. Many exciting moments recalled. Cavers and expeditions from many European nations, Australia, Japan, USA, and international. Congratulations to a true historian who has brought together and amplified accounts from many different sources. It is in the spirit of Pierre Chevalier.

Very good.

Other Entries:

Speleorient 4 – 2004. 140 p. Black and white photos, maps, plus colour inserts. In French - A good effort by the Assoc. Libanaise d'études espeleologiques: i.e., a club publication. Short accounts of Lebanese caves by region; brief accounts of meetings, etc. OK

Caves and Karst of Wombeyan.
Sydney Speleological Society 2004.
Editor Ross Ellis
211 pages. Black and white with a colour insert.

A superior club effort – well-sequenced chapters on history, geology, morphology, speleothems, flora, fauna, etc. by the leading Australian specialists give a comprehensive overview of this striking small area.

Discovery Prizes

UIS prize for the most significant discovery 2001 – 2005. There were only two entries for the discovery award.

First prize was awarded to Exploration of Krubera Cave –2080 m explored this depth “The Call of the Abyss” group of the Ukrainian Speleological Society (The prize was received by the UIS delegate of the Ukrainian Speleological Society – Josef Zimels). This nomination for the first cave to reach a depth of 2 km was supported by substantial amounts of excellent published material.

Honorable mention – L’ardeche souterraine (Philippe Brunet)

The systematic expeditions to connect 60 km of flooded passages by cave diving was presented as a compilation of slides. The prize was received by Phillippe Brunet of FFS.

Poster Prizes

The poster can be on any cave or karst topic presented at the UIS Congress. Entries in the cave photographic and surveying competitions are ineligible for this prize. The members of the congress lodged votes for the poster prize.

The first prize was awarded to the poster titled:
Origin and diagenesis of cave corals in the lava tubes of Jeju Island, Korea.
Presented to K.C. Lee, D.W. Choi and K.S. Woo

Close and equal 2nd prizes were awarded to posters:

Conservation of Ballet cave, Brazil
Presented by H. David
And
The Svarthammar project, North Norway
Presented by S. E. Lauritzen, L. Baastad and J. Bjorlier

SpeleoMedia

Films

First place –International Cave exploration team - CaveX Team and film studio ‘Krylia Rossii’ (accepted by Denis Provalov, Russia) “Speleology: a journey to the centre of Earth”. The exploration of the 2080 m deep Voronia- Krubera Cave in summer 2003.

Second place – N. Chalkiopoulos and K. Adomopoulos for ‘Anogeia 2002 – Caving expedition in Crete’ Accepted by Kostas Adomopoulos – Greece)

Third place – Ian Ellis Chandler for ‘In Sight of Light’ (accepted by Ian Chandler, Spain)

Slides or prints

First place : Robbie Shone (UK) for ‘Titan taken from roof dome 145 meters above floor level showing the breakthrough window where the surface shaft connects’

Second place : George Avagianos (Greece) for ‘Cave of Lakes’ (photo 3)

Third place : George Avagianos (Greece) for ‘Reflecting drops’ (photos 10, 11 and 12) Portfolio

First place – George Avagianos for portfolio on the Caves of Greece

Second place – ‘Guadalupian images by Karst Features’ (Karst Features is a group of Guadalupian cavers: Michael Queen, Stuart Kogod & Jack Soman)

The prize was received by: Michael Queen

KAZIMIERZ KOWALSKI (1925-2007)

THE MOST PROMINENT POLISH SPELEOLOGIST AND CAVER OF XX CENTURY

Professor Kazimierz Kowalski passed away on May 29th, 2007 at his house in Cracow after long illness. He was an outstanding scientist and the most prominent caver of the last century in Poland.

Kazimierz Kowalski (nicknames among cavers "Kazik" and "Kowal") was born in Cracow on March 15th, 1925 to Zofia born Medwecka, MD and Tadeusz Kowalski, PhD - prominent orientalist, professor of the Jagiellonian University. Kazik's early interest in caves and bones accumulated in them was inspired by an excursion with parents to Magurska Cave (Tatra Mts.) famous of cave bear bones in 1934 when he was only 9 years old. Boy's desire to reach the unknown pushed Kazik to start caving before the Second World War and begin a systematic survey of caves in the Cracow Upland just after the War. He extended this work to encompass all of Poland's territory (*Les caverns de la Pologne*, three volumes in Polish, with French resumées, 1951, 1953, 1954). This monumental monograph contains all that was known on karst and caves in this country, with an unrivalled annotated bibliography. However, the value of this monograph lies mostly in the original descriptions and maps of 658 caves. Many of them discovered by the author. During this work he showed broad interdisciplinary knowledge and caving ability. This monograph forms the starting point of modern speleology in Poland.

Kazimierz Kowalski attended high school before the War and completed it in secret in 1943 during the War, then began attending classes in biology at secret Jagiellonian University, officially closed by German occupiers. He joined the Polish Underground Army as well. He was graduated in 1947 and obtained his PhD in 1949. From 1948 to 1954 he worked as a research assistant at the Jagiellonian University and then continued his research in Zoology Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAS), where he became professor in 1962, full professor in 1969, corresponding member of PAS in 1971

and full member in 1986. Between 1978-83 Kazik worked as a zoology professor at Oran University (Algeria). Since 1989 he was very active in restoration of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cracow (founded 1872, closed in 1952), where he was elected two times as the President (1994-2000).

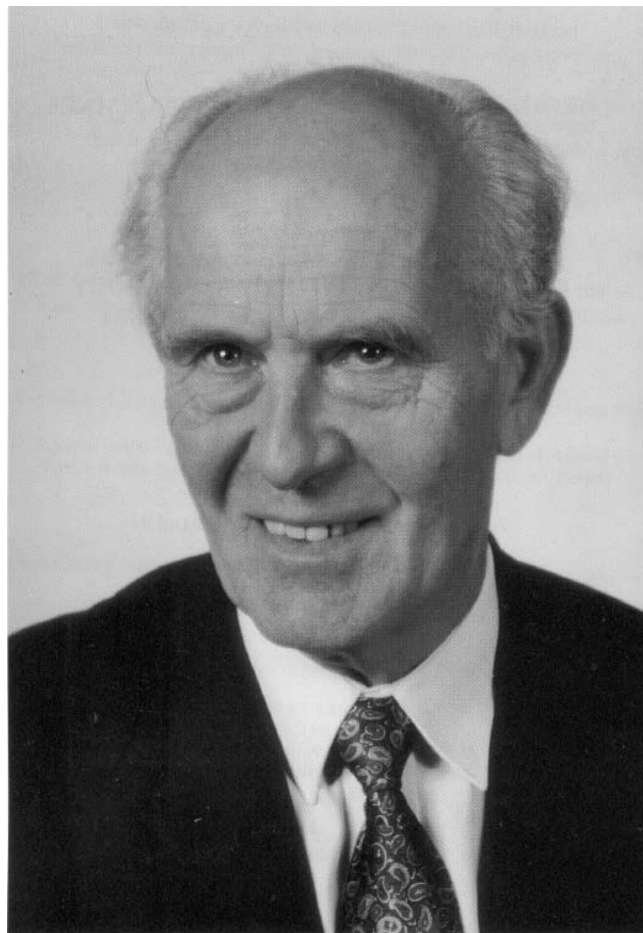
The solitary caving was possible in broad but short, horizontal fossil caves of the Cracow Upland. However, the survey of active and vertical caves in the Tatra Mts. needed teamwork and special equipment, so Kazik became co-founder of the first Polish caving club in Cracow (1950-57) and co-editor of the first Polish caving bulletin *Grotowaz* (Caver), mimeographed in several copies in the same years. This club united students of all the Cracow university level schools. They invented caving and diving equipment and presented in the bulletin new ideas as well as achievements in caving. Kazik differentiated there aims of caving and speleology (1950) and presented idea of abroad caving expeditions (1955), when the political isolation became a little softer. He directed first caving expeditions to Slovakian caves (1955, 1956), then to Bulgarian (1962), Hungarian (1965) and Mexican (1969) caves. Kazik gained several caving Polish national records in vertical caving: - 160 m in 1951 and -213 m in 1952 (both in Mietusia Cave, Tatra Mts.), then in cave diving the Zwolinskis' Sifon in Zimna Cave (Tatra Mts., 1953). He mapped the longest caves of Poland at that time (in 1952 *Szczelina Chochołowska* -1650 m and in 1955 *Zimna* - 3 km, both in the Tatra Mts.). All these achievements he reported in bulletins and journals in Poland as well as abroad. In result he was invited by French friends to take part in the International Expedition to Gouffre Berger (1956) and was one of 7 persons which reached the depth - 1222 m, what was the world record at that time and the first cave explored beneath 1 km of depth. He was a co-founder of Speleological Section of the Polish Copernicus Society of Naturalists, where he was the first President (1963-68) and co-or-

ganizer of annual Speleological Symposia.

During caving as a zoology student, Kazik studied bats and ecology of caves (1951, 1953). He discovered also important Pliocene micromammal fauna (mainly bats) in vertical cave at Podlesice (1951, 1956). Later on he became the most efficient Polish vertebrate paleontologist organizing excavations and elaborations of many other localities of Cenozoic fossil fauna in caves and karst crevasses and published over 660 papers and books all over the world from China to USA. Among them Cave fauna of Polish Tatra Mts. (1956), Life in caves (1956), Catalogue of Pleistocene mammals of Poland (in Polish with English summary, 1959), Mammals. An outline of Theriology (Polish edition 1971, English translation 1976 and Spanish 1981), Die Tierwelt des Eiszeitalters (1986) and together with his wife professor Barbara Rzebik-Kowalska Mammals of Algeria (1991).

The name of Kazimierz Kowalski is fixed in sciences for centuries by over twenty taxa of fossils discovered and named by him and by over a dozen of taxa names honoring him. With his death, speleology and zoology lost one of their most prominent representatives who considerably shifted our knowledge on caves and fossil mammals.

Jerzy Glazek



K. Kowalski

In Memoriam

Marian Pulina (1936-2005)

It is with great regret that we report the passing of the doyen of Polish speleology and karstology – Professor Marian Pulina. Following a brief bout of cancer, he died in Katowice, on the sunny afternoon of October 22nd 2005, surrounded by his family and closest friends.

Marian Pulina was born in Bydgoszcz, on August 3rd 1936, part of a teachers' family. Beginning in 1954 he studied geography at the University of Wrocław, where in 1955 he became a caver and founder-member of the first caving club in Wrocław. On the day of his passing there was a meeting dedicated to the 50th anniversary of this club. He obtained his MSc. degree in 1959, presenting a thesis on Karst in the vicinity of Wojcieszów, Kaczawa Mountains, prepared under the direction of the famous geomorphologist Professor Alfred Jahn. M. Pulina carried out his early speleological investigations in the Sudetes and Tatra mountains, and published papers while still a student. His first paper appeared in 1957 and was a description of a profusely decorated cave revealed and destroyed by quarrying in Wojcieszów (Sudetes).

Immediately after his university studies Marian Pulina moved to Wojcieszów, taking a job as a technician in a quarry and as a researcher in the Field Station of the Institute of Geography of the Polish Academy of Sciences. He obtained a postgraduate scholarship in 1962 and completed a doctoral dissertation entitled Karst phenomena in the Sudetes under the direction of Alfred Jahn, receiving his PhD degree in 1964.

Through their mutual interest in geomorphology Marian met Maria Mokrzycka, whom he married in 1961. They have a son, Mateusz, and a grandson, Jakub Marian, whom Marian Pulina saw for the first time just a few days before his passing.

In 1963 Marian Pulina met Professor Jean Corbel at the University of Lyon. It was a very significant event in Marian's scientific career.

Contact with French karstology and culture, as well as with modern methods of karst study influenced his entire life. At that time a long "marriage" with French universities began. With J. Corbel he visited the most important karst regions of France and participated in his studies in the Vercors. From that important period Marian became interested in studies of chemical denudation in the karst. Later, in 1968, he was invited by the French C.N.R.S. to lecture at the universities of Grenoble and Lyon. Building upon his interesting style of lecturing, the spectacular examples he used for presentation and his good language skills, he spent some weeks almost every year lecturing in one of the French universities (Lyon, Grenoble, Bordeaux, Strasbourg, etc.), as well as at the universities in Montreal, Padova and Madrid.

Among the most distinctive and significant features of Marian Pulina's scientific career, his contacts with scientific circles in both Western and Eastern Europe (as well as with those in Siberia) were equally important. He was an "ambassador" to both regions, in their own speleological and polar research communities. During 1964 and 1965 he spent several months in the Lomonosov University in Moscow (studying ice physics) and in the Institute of Earth's Crust of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Irkutsk (studying karst hydrogeology and hydrochemistry during construction of the Bratsk reservoir). Later he participated many times in conferences and expeditions organized in the former Soviet Union (Caucasus, Ural, Eastern Siberia and Kola Peninsula).

In 1965 Marian Pulina started his university career, teaching geomorphology in the Wrocław University under the direction of A. Jahn. There, in 1972, he obtained the highest scientific degree – habilitation – after completing a dissertation on Chemical denudation on the carbonate karst areas. In 1975 he started to organize a new scientific and teaching centre in the University of Silesia in Sosnowiec. He moved there with his family in 1976 and worked as Associate Professor, Professor

and Full Professor until his death. There, in the University of Silesia, Professor Marian Pulina organized a scientific and tutorial centre unique in Poland, devoted to karst studies.

Marian Pulina's cave and karst studies evolved from climatic geomorphology and cave microclimate, through chemical denudation, periglacial processes in caves (Tatra Mountains), to human activity in karst and cryokarst. His work resulted in more than 150 papers and several books. He created the Polish school of karstology, graduated over 150 students (not only in Poland), conferred more than a dozen doctoral degrees and published the first Polish textbook of karstology (*Karst. Forms and Processes*, 1999). He was a co-creator of the first Polish speleological bulletin, *Speleologia*, in 1959 and later he was a founder of *Kras i speleologia* in 1977. For many years Marian Pulina was a member of the editorial boards of *Karstologia*, the *International Journal of Speleology* and the *Geographical Journal of the Polish Geographical Society* and of *Polish Polar Research*.

In 1966 Marian participated in the discovery of a big, profusely decorated and bone-bearing cave in an active marble quarry – the Niedzwiedzia (Bear) Cave in Sudetes – and he organized a multidisciplinary research team to carry out studies of the cave. This resulted in preservation of the cave by cessation of quarrying, the publication of several collective books, and the establishment of a show cave.

On the basis of the work in Niedzwiedzia Cave, in 1975 Marian Pulina instituted annual winter meetings – Speleological Schools (SS). These were the beginning of Polish-Czech meetings organized by the University of Wrocław, dedicated mostly to karst studies in Sudetes. Later these Schools developed into international events with participation by outstanding foreign researchers. Some important UIS meetings were also held during the Speleological Schools. The 3rd Symposium of the Commission of Karst Physicochemistry and Hydrogeology was held in 1979 (5th SS) and the 2nd Symposium of Glacier Caves and Karst in Polar Regions was held in 1991 (9th SS). During the 13th SS in 1994 the doctor honoris causa of the Silesian University was

conferred to the outstanding French karstologist - Professor Jean Nicod. The specific appeal of the Schools lies in the informal character of the discussions, the interdisciplinary group of participants (including chemists and glaciologists), and in the exchange of knowledge between eastern and western scientists. They also provided opportunities for young researchers and cavers from Central Europe to meet and converse with experienced scientists from all over the world. These schools were like a “window” in the Iron Curtain, and they influenced the establishment of the International Karstological School “Classical Karst” organized each June by the Karst Research Institute in Postojna (Slovenia). Marian Pulina participated in the 13th Classical Karst School in June 2005. It was his last scientific meeting in a foreign speleological society. He presented an impressive contribution on cryokarst phenomena in Svalbard and Iceland.

Based on his experiences with the Speleological School and the protection problems of the Niedzwiedzia Cave in the Sudety Mountains, in 1991 he initiated annual meetings of scientists and professionals working on nature protection in karst regions – the International School of Nature Protection in Karst Regions, organized by the University of Silesia and the authorities of landscape parks in Poland and the Moravian Karst in the Czech Republic.

Marian Pulina also began his polar research while based at the Wrocław University. His earlier contacts with Jean Corbel, as well as his studies of ice physics in Moscow had influenced his appreciation of a need for karst studies in the Arctic. In 1972 and 1973 he participated in University of Wrocław expeditions to Spitsbergen. After that he worked to build connections between speleology and glaciology. The idea of combining speleology and glaciology was very innovative and was possibly Marian Pulina's the most outstanding scientific achievement. Almost every year he participated in, or organized his own expedition to Spitsbergen. He participated in the development of the Polish Polar Station in Hornsund, and was the head of the second whole year expedition to this station (1979/1980). These expeditions were mostly

organized on the basis of international co-operation (e.g. with Jacques Schroeder from Canada or Josef Rehak from the Czech Republic). For many years Marian Pulina was the President of the Arctic Research Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences and he played a major role in the development of field research and caving expeditions to Spitsbergen. Building on an initiative of Adolfo Eraso, Marian Pulina and Jacques Schroeder, first the Working Group and then the Commission of Glacier Caves and Cryokarst in Polar and High Mountain Regions were established at the 10th International Congress of Speleology in Budapest. The long-term friendship and cooperation of Marian Pulina and Adolfo Eraso resulted in the publication of the fundamental source book for glacier cave and cryokarst studies – *Cuevas en hielo y rios bajo los glaciares* (two editions, published in 1994 and 2001). As well as participating in almost every symposium of the Commission from the very beginning, Marian Pulina organized the 2nd Symposium in Poland and in the Czech Republic in 1992, whereas the 7th symposium, in the Caucasus, was held when he was already very ill, during September 2005. While he was in hospital his book, written in cooperation with Jean-Noël Salomon, *Les karst des régions climatiques extrêmes* (*Karstologia – Mémoires* 14, 2005), was published in Bordeaux. He was the author of the part dedicated to the karst and cryokarst of polar and sub-polar regions. It was the last book that he held, some days before his passing.

Marian Pulina was a very active member of the UIS. Apart from his work on glacier karst and caves he created the International Programme of Genesis and Evolution of Karst (PIGEK) in the framework of the Commission of Karst Physicochemistry and Hydrogeology. The main idea of this programme was to examine hydrochemical processes in different karst regions, and it was a part of his ongoing work on chemical denudation. It was thanks to the initiative of Marian Pulina that experimental research began in a variety of small karstic catchments in Poland (Sudetes), Cuba (Sierra del Rosario), Spitsbergen (Hornsund area) and Bulgaria (Rodope Mountains and Stara Planina).

Marian Pulina contributed to many International Congresses of Speleology, presenting various interesting papers, the first of them at the 4th Congress in Ljubljana in 1965. He was also an active full member of the Karst Commission (previous Study Group) of the International Geographical Union.

Marian Pulina devoted himself totally to science and society. He followed his chosen path incessantly, and never faltered or lost courage, even when faced by great difficulties when Poland was behind the Iron Curtain. He had the great talent of knowing how to utilize any opportunity to develop new ideas and contacts with people. He always found ways to obtain the necessary means to realize even the most seemingly unrealistic ideas. Very often, we all benefited from this distinctive feature of Marian Pulina. For these reasons so many of his friends, not only from Poland, colleagues and students, attended the services held for him at the University Church of Saint Thomas and at the cemetery in Sosnowiec.

Thank you Marian. We will never forget you.

Andrzej Tyc
with the collaboration of Giovanni Badino, Arigo Cigna, Paolo Forti and Jerzy Glazek



Commission of Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis of the International Union of Speleology

2002-2005 Activity Report

Background and Goals

The UIS Commission on Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis (KHS Commission) started in 1994 as a Working Group with the same name. In 1997 it had been upgraded to the Commission by the UIS General Assembly (ISC-12, Switzerland). The Commission had been re-approved for the period of 2002-2005 by the UIS General Assembly at the ISC-13 held in Brazil (2001).

The principal goal of the Commission is to promote scientific co-operation and research in the field of karst hydrogeology, with special emphasis to speleogenesis as the core problem of the permeability development in soluble rocks and of the evolution of karst aquifers.

The Commission promotes researches in the field in two principal ways:

- 1) By sponsoring and organising a framework for communication and information exchange between interested workers via different means, including electronic and printed circulars, newsletter and web site.
- 2) By setting up specific priority topics (specific objectives) and running respective time-defined projects aimed to result in fundamental publications on these topics.

The Commission does not organise its own regular meetings except sessions held during the UIS Congresses, although it may have occasional working meetings or sponsor some thematic sections at major international karst/cave symposia.

Affiliation

The membership to the KHS Commission is open for any researcher interested in its activity and sharing its goals. To the end of the previous period (by May of 2001), some 90 scientists from 25 nations had registered as Commission members. With the establishment of the "Speleogenesis" website in 2003, a less formal and more simple way of how interested people could affiliate with the Commission has been implemented, i.e. online registration on the site. Registrants regularly receive the electronic "WWW.SPELEOGENESIS.INFO - BULLETIN" that provides the site and Commission news. **Presently there are 504 members of more than 30 nations registered on the "Speleogenesis" website.**

The Commission Bureau

Based on a survey performed in 2001, the Bureau of the KHS Commission had been formed in the early 2002 to advise on the current Commission activity:

- Audra, Philippe, Universite Nice-Sophia-Antipolis, France
- Bakalowicz, Michel, CNRS, France
- Cigna, Arrigo, Italy
- Gabrovsek, Franci, Karst Research Institute, Slovenia
- Groves, Chris, Western Kentucky University, USA
- Hauselmann, Philippe, University of Neuchatel, Switzerland
- Dreybrodt, Wolfgang, University of Bremen, Germany
- Ford, Derek, McMaster University, Canada
- Jeannin, Pierre-Yves, Centre of Hydrogeology, Neuchatel, Switzerland
- Klimchouk, Alexander, Inst. Geol. Sci, Ukraine
- Kranjc, Andrej, Karst Research Institute, Slovenia
- Lowe, David, British Geological Survey, UK
- Mylroie, John, Mississippi State University, USA

- Gunn, John, Huddersfield University, UK
- Osborne, Armstrong, University of Sydney, Australia
- Palmer, Arthur, Oneonta University, USA
- Sustersic France, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
- White, William, Penn State University, USA
- Worthington, Steven, Worthington Groundwater Inc., Canada

Inheritance from the past KHS Commission projects

During 1994-2000 the Commission was chiefly engaged into preparation of the fundamental international book "Speleogenesis: Evolution of Karst Aquifers". The book had been published by NSS in 2000. Well received by the professional community (eight positive reviews in major hydrology and geoscience journals), the book had been awarded by the UIS Inaugural Prize for the most important scientific publication in speleology at the ISC-13 in Brazil (2001).

The Speleogenesis book concept got its further development during 2002-2005 through publishing the online scientific journal "Speleogenesis and Evolution of Karst Aquifers", established by the KHS Commission in 2003 (see below).

Two other projects, initiated by the KHS Commission in the previous period, received some further development during the report period:

- the Project "Epikarst: its Nature, Hydraulic Functioning and the Role in Karst Morphogenesis" has not been completed in its initial form but it has transformed eventually into the KWI initiative for the international Interdisciplinary Workshop on Epikarst, held in October 1-4, 2003 in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. The KWI published a proceedings volume in its special publication series.

- the Project "Practical Implications of Speleogenetic Studies" has resulted in the publication of a book "Implication of Speleological Studies for Karst Subsidence Hazard Assessment" published in 2002 as a theme issue of the International Journal of Speleology (n.31/1-4).

Since 2003 the Commission work has been focused on the development of the Speleogenesis website and its services.

KHS Commission website:

Speleogenesis and Evolution of Karst Aquifers Journal

In order to more effectively meet its main goal (fostering communication and information exchange, and promoting researches in the field), the KHS Commission has established in 2003, in cooperation with the IGU Karst Commission, a web-based scientific Journal "Speleogenesis and Evolution of Karst Aquifers". The Journal provides peer reviewed publication of original research papers as well as re-published papers from various sources in order to concentrate in a single and easily accessible resource much essential knowledge about speleogenesis, hydrogeology and evolution of karst. With its various services, either already developed or being under construction, the site seeks to perform the following main functions:

- 1) To effectively disseminate research results,
- 2) To create a structured reference library for important works on the subject,
- 3) To be an update source of information on events and publications
- 4) To provide a forum for various thematic/organizational discussions.

During 2003-2004 six journal issues have been published, containing 45 scientific papers.

Besides the journal itself, the site has a variety of important services: searchable journal archive, searchable current bibliography, searchable terminology glossary, interactive meeting calendar, interactive publication alert service, thesis abstract section and a forum. In 2004 the Journal passed registration as a scientific periodical and got a ISSN number (1814-294X).

In 2004 a cooperation agreement has been set up between the KHS Commission and the International Journal of Speleology (the official UIS journal) to combine and coordinate efforts

in disseminating important research results and to jointly publish papers that fit the scope of both journals.

Other publications

During the report period, the KHS Commission has finished preparation of the book "Implication of Speleological Studies for Karst Subsidence Hazard Assessment", published in 2002 as a theme issue of the International Journal of Speleology (n.31/1-4). The book comprises 11 papers contributed by 12 authors of seven nations.

The KHS Commission members were instrumental in the preparation of the most outstanding compendium on karst and cave science, the "Encyclopedia of Caves and Karst Science" edited by Prof. John Gunn and published by Fitzroy Dearborn/Taylor and Francis in 2004, and also contributed significantly into another major cave science encyclopedia published in 2005 by Academic Press.

During 2002-2005 the KHS Commission members published more than 400 scientific papers relevant to the Commission subject, including more than 100 papers in mainstream geoscience journals.

Meetings

Although the KHS Commission did not organize its own scientific gatherings, it has co-sponsored several important meetings organized by other institutions:

- International Symposium "Evolution of Karst: From Prekarst to Cessation" held in September 2002 in Slovenia;
- International Conference on Karst Hydrology and Ecosystems, held in 2003 in Bowling Green, Kentucky (a joint meeting of the four primary international karst groups with the main purpose of fostering cooperation and communication between them).
- Session NH8.03 "Natural and anthropogenic hazards in karst areas" at the 1st General Assembly of the European Geosciences Union, held between April 25 – 30, 2004 in Nice, France.

Cooperation with other international karst organizations

During the report period the KHS Commission closely cooperated in various aspects with the Karst Commission of the International Geographic Union (chair Prof. J.Gunn). A special cooperation agreement has been set up with the International Journal of Speleology. Recently, the Commission actively supported the new IGCP 513 project led by Prof.C.Groves: "Global Study of Karst Aquifers and Water Resources" (submitted to UNESCO in October of 2004, and passed by vote at the IGCP Board meeting in Paris in February 2005).

Overall conclusion

Overall, the UIS KHS Commission has successfully performed its role in advancing studies in the field of karst hydrogeology and speleogenesis and in fostering scientific cooperation in the field. Intense publication and organizational activity of the principal Commission members has considerably promoted the roles of speleogenetic studies in karst hydrogeology and geological engineering. Such roles are getting increasingly recognized by the wide geoscience community. The Commission should continue its work for the next period.

Points to address on a possible Commission meeting during ISC14 and future plans

I have not been successful to pre-organize a business meeting of the KHS Commission during the upcoming ISC-14 in Kalamos, Greece, - due to the total lack of communication from the side of the Congress organizers. Moreover, I am not able to attend the Congress due to their failure to supply me with an official invitation to manage visa problem in time.

I suggest that the Commission members, which will attend the Congress, meet on Friday, August 26th from 13:00-14:30 in Hall C of the Dolphin Hotel, the place announced for the IGCP 513 meeting, with a two-fold aim:

- 1) To support, and get actively involved into, IGCP 513 project.
 - 2) To use a chance to discuss, at least briefly, the KHS Commission current and future affairs.
- Any new ideas and suggestions concerning formats and methods of the future Commission work would be very welcome!

My feeling is that, on the Commission level, we should focus on further development and improvement of the Speleogenesis site to make full use of its potential in fostering cooperation between individual scientists and research/coordinating institutions and in promotion of researches in the field. We have now all necessary pre-requisites to make the Speleogenesis site the central clearing-house for geospeleology/karstology related information, references and forum, as discussed on the Bowling Green meeting (2003). In particular, we should give new impulses to the site forum and to expand the bibliography service (probably merging it with the IGU Karst Commission bibliography efforts – A.Kranjc). We should make every effort to restore strict regularity in releasing Journal issues. Another important task for the nearest future is to implement the DOI system for the Journal.

I suggest that in the next period the KHS Commission would strongly support IGCP 513 initiative and encourage individual scientists to actively participate to the project, as its theme ("Global Study of Karst Aquifers and Water Resources") is highly relevant to the scope of our Commission. The KHS Commission could provide a speleogenetic outlook to the IGCP 513 theme and offer the Speleogenesis website to serve the project needs.

Another ongoing programme to which the Commission could contribute is "Climate Changes and Karst Records", promoted through many years by KWI and some other organizations. Cave minerals, sediments and morphology are all the invaluable archives of information about paleoenvironments, often paragenetically related. Speleogenesis is, by definition, the problem of paleoenvironmental reconstructions. It is therefore fully justified to combine efforts with other groups to advance various aspects of "Karst Record" studies in their conjunction.

Last but not least point to address during the meeting in Kalamos is the election of the Commission President. Although I am prepared to chair the Commission in the next period, I feel it desirable to be replaced on the position of the Commission President if someone is willing and determined to bring a new impetus and perspective to the KHS Commission work in the next period. If this would be the case, I would certainly remain an active worker for the Commission, and I'd continue to run the Speleogenesis website/Journal to provide an effective support to a possible new President.

Acknowledgements

The KHS Commission activity, particularly the development of the "Speleogenesis" website/Journal, was partially supported by financial donations from the IGU Karst Commission (J.Gunn), the Hoffman Research Institute of the Western Kentucky University (C.Groves), the editors of the Speleogenesis book (W.Dreybrodt, D.Ford, A.Palmer and A.Klimchouk) and by the UIS. Thanks are due to all these organizations and individuals. As a Commission President, I am deeply indebted to all those colleagues, especially to the Commission Bureau members, for their strong enthusiasm, encouragement and help in maintaining the Commission activity. Special thanks are due to Alexei Koptchinsky of Vienna for his wonderful efforts on technical development of the Speleogenesis website.



Alexander Klimchouk,
President, the Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis Commission of UIS

U.I.S. COMMISSION

"GLACIER CAVES AND KARST IN POLAR REGIONS"

1.- Activities summary

Between the 13nd International Congress of Speleology in Brasilia (Brazil, 2001), and the 14nd International Congress of Speleology in Athens (Greece, 2005), the following activities have been developed:

1.1.- Glaciological expeditions:

- Year 2001:
 - July-August: Svalbard (Ny-Alesund); Austrelovenbreen glacier
- Year 2002:
 - January-February: Antarctic; Collins glacier
 - February: Chilean Patagonia; Tyndall glacier
 - July: Svalbard (Ny-Alesund); Austrelovenbreen glacier
 - August: Svalbard (Barentsburg); Aldegonda glacier
 - December: Antarctic; Collins glacier
- Year 2003:
 - January: Antarctic; Collins glacier
 - February: Chilean Patagonia; Tyndall glacier
 - April-May: Svalbard (Ny-Alesund); Austrelovenbreen glacier
 - July-August-September: Svalbard (Ny-Alesund); Austrelovenbreen glacier
 - September-October: Iceland; Kviarjökull glacier
 - November- December: Antarctic; Collins glacier
- Year 2004:
 - January: Antarctic; Collins glacier
 - February: Chilean Patagonia; Tyndall glacier
 - July-August: Svalbard (Ny-Alesund); Austrelovenbreen glacier
 - November- December: Antarctic; Collins glacier
- Year 2005:
 - January: Antarctic; Collins glacier
 - February: Chilean Patagonia; Tyndall glacier
 - June-July: Iceland; Kviarjökull glacier
 - July: Svalbard (Ny-Alesund); Austrelovenbreen glacier

1.2.- International Meetings and Projects:

- Year 2001:
 - Preparation and beginning of the GLACE Project "GLAciers, Cryokarst and Environment" (Proyecto GLACKMA, in Spanish) –for three years developing-. At the moment we have implemented 4 experimental pilot catchement areas: Iceland at 64°N and Patagonia at 51°S in temperated glaciers and Svalbard at 79°N and Insular Antarctica at 62°S in subpolar glaciers. In all them the discharge glacier is registering continuously for studying also the effect of latitude in front of global warming.
- Year 2002:
 - Publication of the Proceedings of the V Symposium of Commission Glacier Caves and Karst in Polar Regions, celebrated in Courmayeur (Italy) under the

auspices of "Societ  Meteorologica Subalpina". *Nimbus* n. 23-24, 160 pp, Torino (Italy), 2002, ISSN 1122-4339.

- Publication of the 2nd Edition of book: "Cuevas en hielo y r os bajo los glaciares", Adolfo Eraso and Marian Pulina, Ed: Mc GrawHill, 279 pp, Madrid (Espa a) 2001.

➤ Year 2003:

- Celebration of the VI Symposium of Commission Glacier Caves and Karst in Polar Regions, in Ny-Alesund (Svalbard), 3-8 September 2003. Organized by: RANS (Russian Academy of Natural Sciences), GLACKIPR (International Commission Glacier Caves and Karst in Polar Regions) and SEDECK (Sociedad Espa ola de Espeleolog a y Ciencias del Karst). Supported by: Junta de Castilla y Le n, Ministerio de Medio Ambiente and Gobierno de Navarra. Collaborators: Svalbard Science Forum, Kings Bay AS and Norwegian Polar Institute.

- During this Symposium, Jacques Schroeder renouncing to his charge of secretary of Commission, due to he has not time for that. Taking into account the long period performed as secretary by Schroeder (from the foundation of Glackipr in Budapest in August of 1989, until September 2003), it was decided to accept it and grateful for his service developed during more than 14 years. Also, the assembly unanimously decides to nominate as new general secretary to Giovanni Badino (University of Torino, Italy).

➤ Year 2004:

- Preparation and beginning of the Second Phase of GLACE Project "GLAciers, Cryokarst and Environment" (Proyecto GLACKMA, in Spanish) –for another three years developing-.

- Publication (polychromatic) of the Proceedings of the VI Symposium of Commission Glacier Caves and Karst in Polar Regions, celebrated in Ny-Alesund (Svalbard): 6th International Symposium Glacier Caves and Karst in Polar Regions. Monografico SEDECK. Editors: Adolfo Eraso and Carmen Dominguez; 193 pp, Madrid (Espa a), ISSN 1696-1897. This journal (450 numbers) were sent to different Polar Institutions.

➤ Year 2005:

- Preparation a proposal for the IPY (International Polar Year 2007-08): "SUGLANET: SUBpolar GLAciers NETwork". After the acceptance of the proposal for the General Committee, and due to its character bipolar (arctic and antarctic), this proposal was clustered with two projects: one for Arctic, EOI 30 GLACIODYN (The dynamic response of Arctic glaciers to global warming) into the IASC-WAG, and another for Antarctic: EOI 193 CLICOPEN (Impact to climate induced glacial melting on marine and terrestrial coastal communities on a gradient along the Western Antarctic Peninsula) into the Alfred Wegener Institute

- VII Symposium of Commission Glacier Caves and Karst in Polar Regions will take place on Kabardino-Balkarija (Caucasus), Russia, in September 2005.

2.- Actual and Future International Research Program

SUGLANET: SUBpolar GLAciers NETwork

Subpolar glaciers network as natural sensors of global warming evolution

It is nevertheless true that discharges of temperate glaciers ($1\text{--}1.2\text{ m}^3/\text{seg km}^2$) are bigger than those one coming from subpolar glaciers ($0.2\text{--}0.3\text{ m}^3/\text{seg km}^2$), but also it is true that extension of subpolar glaciers ($\pm 750000\text{ km}^2$) is much more bigger than extension of temperate glaciers ($\pm 70000\text{ km}^2$).

Our working hypothesis is based on considering that the role played by the discharge of subpolar glaciers due to the global warming could be as important as those coming out of temperated glaciers. For that our proposal is to implement experimental pilot catchment areas able to register glacier discharge continuously, recordering time series with hourly cycletime of different hydraulic parameters (water level, conductivity, water temperature, redox, pH, solid contents).

Later using correlative and spectral analysis between input time series (meteorological parameters as air temperature, relative humidity, atmospheric pressure, solar radiation) and output time series (hidrological parameters) we establish their characteristics in the time and frequency domains. The use of cross correlogram for temperature and discharge, for example, will define the influence of air temperature in glacier discharge, as well as its law of time distribution, which means the glacier answer to weather changes and global warming.

In former research we began at 2001 to develop the GLACE Project: “GLAciers, Cryokarst and Environment” (Proyecto GLACKMA, in Spanish). At the moment we have implemented 4 experimental pilot catchment areas: Iceland at 64°N and Patagonia at 51°S in temperated glaciers and Svalbard at 79°N and Insular Antarctica at 62°S in subpolar glaciers. In all them the discharge glacier is registering continuously for studing also the effect of latitude in front of global warming.

The proposal presented here means maintain operating continuously those 4 experimental catchment areas, generating time series with cycle time hourly for studying the **evolution on time of global warming**. Also to implement new more pilot stations (at less one in the Antarctic Peninsula at $S\ 63^\circ\ 24'$ near ECARE, another in the Eastern Antarctica at 71°S near Novolazarevskaya and another one in Severnaja Zemlja –and study the possibility in more places to different latitudes in both hemisphere-) for studying the **distribution on latitude of the global warming**.

Topics of project:

- Establishment of a network of pilot stations measuring glacier discharge in different latitudes in both hemispheres. This network will be enlarged successively

- Define on time the exponential function that described the increase of specific glacier discharge in every station

- Find the correlation between glacier discharge with solar radiation, air temperature and another meteorological parameters using correlative and spectral analysis

- Compare specific discharge glacier (m³/sec km²) for several latitudes in both hemispheres and its time evolution applied to prediction models of sea rise level
- Estimation of physico-chemical characteristics of subpolar waters (Eh, pH) and its influence in the hydrolisis processes on bed rocks
- Comparative studies between discharge glacier versus calving of tide water glaciers in King George.
- Comparison between glacier discharge and modelled/measured mass balance.
- Quantification at the present time the dynamic conditions of solid transport generated by glacier discharge in Marian cove (near King Sejong Sation) and its relation with paleoclimatic registration and for biological research.

Collaboration with:

For the Antarctic:

- Albert Lluberas; Uruguayan Antarctic Institute (Uruguay)
- Irina Solovyanova; Moscow Geographical Institute (Russia)
- Maxim Moskalevsky; Russian Academy of Natural Sciences (Russia)
- Magdalena Giglio; Water Division, XII Region of Chile (Chile)
- Alain Mangin; Laboratoire Souterraine Moulis-CNRS- (France)
- Ho Il Yoon; Korea Antarctic Research Program
- Matthias Braun; Center for Remote Sensing of Land Surface; University of Bonn (Germany)
- Norbert Blindow; Institute for Geophysics, University of Muenster (Germany)

For the Arctic:

- Jon Ove Hagen; Dept. Geosciences, University of Oslo (Norway)
- Geir Vatne; Dept. Geography, University of Science and Technology (Norway)
- Madeleine Griselin; ThéMA-CNRS (France)
- Sigurdur Jonsson; Iceland Geosurvey (Iceland)
- Alain Mangin; Laboratoire Souterraine Moulis-CNRS- (France)
- Irina Solovyanova; Moscow Geographical Institute (Russia)

Coordination:

- **Adolfo Eraso.** Academician of:
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 New York Academy of Sciences
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- **Carmen Domínguez**
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Note:

This declaration is made by delegates from 24 countries. Delegates of UIS member countries are asked kindly to be informed about this declaration and to propose their suggestions (to Christian Dodelin) before the upcoming UIS General Assembly in July 2009 (ICS15, Texas – USA), when its final version will be proposed for voting

**AGGTELEK AGREEMENT
DECLARATION D'AGGTELEK
DECLARACION DE AGGTELEK**

French is the reference language for this document
Le français est la langue de référence pour ce document
El frances es el idioma de referencia para este documento

The representatives of the 24 countries attending the 11th Conference of the Cave Rescue Commission of the UIS declare the following to be the basis principles of their cave rescue operations:

Les représentants des 24 pays rassemblés lors de la 11^e Conférence de la Commission Spéléo Secours de l'UIS affirment quelques principes fondamentaux pour leurs actions de secours:

Los representantes de 24 países venidos a la 11^a Conferencia de la Comisión de Espeleorescate de l'UIS afirman algunos principios básicos de los actos de rescate:

1. Only experienced cavers are trained to become members of rescue teams. The nature of caves and potholes requires rescue personnel to be primarily cavers themselves.

Seuls les spéléologues expérimentés se forment et s'entraînent pour composer les équipes de secours. La particularité des grottes et gouffres oblige tous sauveteurs à être en premier lieu : spéléologues.

Solamente los espeleólogos con experiencia deben formarse para definir los equipos de rescate. El ambiente específico de las cuevas requiere que todos los rescatadores bajo tierra sean espeleólogos.

2. Cave rescue is a public service. The safety of its citizens is the fundamental concern of a state. Underground rescue involves both cavers and non-cavers.

Le Secours Spéléo est d'utilité publique. La sécurité des citoyens est la première mission des Etats. Les secours souterrains concernent des spéléos et des non-spéléos.

El espeleorescate esta de utilidad publica. La seguridad de los ciudadanos es la primera mision de los Estados. El espelorescate concernan las victimas ambas espeleologos y non-espeleologos.

3. States deploy the means of rescue. With the caving and speleological organisations, the states possess the relevant skills. Inseparable from maintaining these skills is a formal agreement and financial support.

Les Etats organisent les moyens de secours. Avec les organisations de secours des speleologues, les Etats disposent des competences appropriees. Un agrement et une aide financiere sont des moyens de reconnaissance indispensables.

Los Estados organizan los medios de rescate. Con las organizaciones de rescate de los espeleologos, los Estados disponen de las competencias apropiadas. Un acuerdo y una ayuda economica son un reconocimiento indispensable.

4. To ensure that citizens receive equal rescue treatment, it is free. In consequence, the cost of rescue operations must be borne by the state.

Pour conserver l'egalite des citoyens face au secours, le secours est gratuit. Les frais des operations de secours speleo doivent etre egalement pris en charge par les Etats

Para observar la igualdad de los ciudadanos para el rescate, el rescate esta gratuito. Debe seguir estando gratuito en caso de los accidentes en cuevas. .

5. In common with all citizens, cave rescuers participate in the organisation and financing of rescue work through taxation. They also participate through training and the purchase of their equipment. Having already contributed in two senses, they have no wish to face a further indirect demand - that of insurance.

Les speleologues sauveteurs, comme tous les citoyens, participent a l'organisation et aux financement des secours par l'impôt ; ils participent egalement par leurs entrainements et l'achat de leur materiel. Ils paient deja 2 fois et ne veulent pas payer une troisieme fois, meme par le biais des assurances.

Los rescatistas, como todos los ciudadanos, participan en la organizacion y en los gastos del rescate con los impuestos; participan igualmente con su entrenamiento y la compra de su material. Como ya pagaron 2 veces, no quieren pagar una tercera vez, aun que sea por medio de un seguro.

6. The cost of cave rescue is low because cavers are unpaid volunteers. In every country the instances of cave rescue are rare and the training of professional rescuers is not cost-effective.

Les frais de secours speleo sont peu onereux grace au volontariat des speleologues. Dans chaque pays les secours speleos sont rares et la formation de professionnels ne serait pas rentable.

Los gastos del espeleorescate no estan muy altos gracias a la actividad voluntaria de los espeleologos. En cada pais los actos de rescate no estan muy frecuentes y la formacion de los profesionales no seria economicamente justificada.

7. Cave rescuers often carry out the training of professional rescue workers and their techniques are used in many situations.

Les speleologues assurent souvent la formation des professionnels et leurs techniques sont reprises dans de nombreuses situations.

Los espeleólogos se encargan muy seguido de la formación de los profesionales y sus técnicas se utilizan en varias situaciones.

8. The rescue techniques and the use of ropes have been the subjects of long and detailed study by cavers in order to ensure their efficiency. The use of other methods and standards in the professional framework are not always compatible with caving practice, and their use must not be forced upon cave rescuers.

Les techniques de secours et de cordes ont fait l'objet d'études importantes par les speleologues et ont démontré leur efficacité. Les différentes normes sur le matériel imposées dans le cadre professionnel ne sont pas toujours compatibles avec la pratique speleo et ne doivent pas nous être imposées.

Las técnicas de rescate y de cuerdas han sido objeto de estudios importantes por los espeleólogos y han mostrado su eficacia. Las diversas normas que están obligatorias para el equipo usado profesionalmente no siempre están compatibles con la práctica espeleo y no deben estar impuestas a los espeleólogos.

9. We respectfully request states to take into consideration the various activities of cavers : research, discovery, tourism, education and rescue.

Nous remercions les Etats de prendre en considération les activités des speleologues sous toutes leurs formes: recherches, découvertes, tourisme, thérapie, éducation, secours.

Agradecemos a los Estados de apoyar las actividades espeleológicas en todas sus formas: estudios científicos, descubrimientos, turismo, terapia, educación, rescate.

Aggtelek, 18th May 2007

Aggtelek, le 18 Mai 2007

Aggtelek, 18 de mayo 2007



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Granges, September 13th, 2008

Meeting of the Bibliography Commission in Vercors 2008

Meeting Agenda:

1. Tricks and shortcuts for data input in version 5.13 (download at www.ssslib.ch/bbs)
 2. Price of the paper version of the BBS/SA:
 - We experienced a deficit of around 4,000 Swiss Francs (approximately 2,500 €) for the BBS/SA 44. To guarantee the printing of the BBS/SA 45 (and 46), it is necessary to reduce this deficit to zero.Solutions suggested:
 - I. Invoice at cost the paper version of the BBS/SA
 - II. Print at a lesser cost (who will take care of this?)
 - III. Photocopy a minimal number of issues.
 - IV. ...
 3. The BBS/SA on the Internet: demo. Potential problems.
 4. Other.
- The meeting will be followed at 16:00 by a round-table discussion, moderated by M. Michelli (It) & A. Darnoux (Fr): Round-table discussion "Towards a European speleological library?"

Meeting Minutes

1. Data Input version 5.13 (to be downloaded from Internet):

Several remarks and corrections are proposed:

- a button to copy the contents of a field from the preceding entry
- a button that makes it possible to send an e-mail with the contents of the current entry
- publication names in italics in the list of publications
- when entering abstracts for Internet pages, how to deal with the year of publication when it isn't visible?

It is imperative that this new version be used. The country codes are updated on a regular basis.

2. Cost of the paper version.

The cost of printing on paper must be covered by the contributions of the federations, by subscribers and by the UIS. The Commission of Speleology of the Swiss Academy of Natural Sciences does not fund the printing of the BBS/SA any more. It continues to support the production of the BBS/SA and its publication on Internet (in the form of a database).

With this in mind, various possibilities will be explored and submitted to the co-editor federations:

- Printing the BBS/SA 45 in Bulgaria (as proposed by the Bulgarian collaborator of the BBS/SA)
- Delivering a PDF to the federations
- Printing only the number of issues ordered and invoicing them at cost.

NB: The UIS Office decided at its meeting in Korea to fund the BBS/SA in 2008 for € 1500.

3. BBS/SA on the Internet

Due to a lack of Internet connection, a demonstration could not be made. Some remarks were however made:

- Publication of the updates on a regular basis.
- Information on the updates.
- Connections without activity must be stopped. No possibility of remaining connected permanently.
- Subscription proposed for 1 month or 1 year. The availability of the subscription should not be immediate.
- A limited-access demonstration must be available to enable a search.
- Banners must be available.

Several people volunteered to carry out tests. Follow the evolution of this project on the Internet (www.ssslib.ch).

4. Other (apart from meeting)

Deadlines for the next BBS/SAs: as soon as possible but at the latest October 15 for the year 2006, December 15 for the year 2007 and April 15 for the year 2008.

Towards a European speleological library?

Michele Sivelli proposed the creation of a European speleological library. In fact this would be a virtual library that can be queried on the availability of a publication (of speleology), and which would consult the national libraries automatically. The idea of each federation exporting data under the format unimarc Z3950 was rejected. The use of “meta OPAC” was retained. It was decided that:

- Michele Sivelli will inquire in Italy about the possibility of using software “made in Italy”
- Each federation will put on its OPAC a link to the OPAC of the other federations.

Examples of virtual libraries:

www.chvk.ch

http://www.ubka.uni-karlsruhe.de/kvk/kvk/kvk_fr.html

Since Vercors 2008, the Documentation Commission of the FFS made available some Internet pages on the speleological libraries. Navigate to:

<http://www.ssslib.ch/bbs/public/francais/index.htm>, click on documentation center.

Participants:

Réunion de la commission de bibliographie à Vercors 2008

Rappel de l'ordre du jour :

1. Trucs et astuces de la saisie version 5.13 (télécharger sous www.ssslib.ch/bbs)
 2. Prix du BBS papier :
 - Grosso modo, un déficit de 4'000 francs (environ 2500 €) est apparu pour le BBS
 44. Pour garantir l'impression du BBS 45 (et 46), il y a lieu de réduire ce déficit à zéro. Solutions proposées :
 - Facturer à prix coûtant les BBS papiers
 - Imprimer moins cher (qui s'en occupe ?)
 - Photocopier un nombre minimal d'exemplaires.
 - ...
 3. Le BBS sur internet : démonstration. Problèmes posés.
 4. Divers
- La réunion sera suivie dès 16 h 00 d'une table ronde, modérée par M. Michelli (I) & A. Darnoux (F) : Table-ronde "Vers une bibliothèque européenne de spéléologie ?"

Compte-rendu de la réunion

1. Saisie version 5.13 (à télécharger sur internet)

Plusieurs remarques et corrections sont proposées :

- bouton pour copier le contenu d'un champ de la fiche précédente
- bouton qui permet d'envoyer un mail avec le contenu de la fiche courante
- noms des revues en italique dans la liste des revues
- lors de la saisie de pages internet, comment traiter l'année de publication lorsqu'elle n'est pas visible ?

Cette nouvelle version à utiliser impérativement. Les codes de pays sont adaptés régulièrement.

2. Coût de l'impression papier

L'impression papier doit être couverte par les contributions des fédérations, les abonnés et l'UIS. La commission de spéléologie de l'Académie suisse des Sciences naturelles ne soutient plus l'impression du BBS. Elle continue à soutenir la réalisation du BBS et sa publication sur internet (sous forme d'une base de données).

Fort de ce fait, plusieurs pistes seront explorées et soumises aux fédérations coéditrices :

- Impression du BBS 45 en Bulgarie (selon proposition du collaborateur bulgare du BBS)

- Remise d'un pdf aux fédérations
- Imprimer uniquement le nombre d'exemplaires commandé et les facturer au prix de revient.

NB : Le bureau de l'UIS a décidé lors de sa réunion en Corée de soutenir le BBS en 2008 pour 1500 €.

3. BBS sur internet

Faute de liaison informatique, une démonstration n'a pas pu être faite. Des remarques sont pourtant faites :

- Publications régulières des mises à jour.
- Informations sur les mise à jours.
- Connexion sans activité doit être arrêtée. Pas de possibilité de rester connecté en permanence
- Abonnement proposé pour 1 mois ou 1 an. La disponibilité de l'abonnement ne doit pas être immédiate.
- Une démo avec un accès limité doit être disponible pour une recherche.
- Des bannières doivent être disponibles.

Plusieurs personnes se sont proposées pour effectuer des tests. Informations sur l'évolution de ce projet par internet (www.ssslib.ch)

4. Divers (hors réunion)

Délais pour les prochains BBS : le plus tôt possible mais au plus tard le 15 octobre pour ce qui concerne l'année 2006, le 15 décembre pour l'année 2007 et le 15 avril pour l'année 2008.

Vers une bibliothèque européenne de spéléologie ?

Michele Sivelli a proposé la création d'une bibliothèque spéléologique européenne. En fait il s'agit d'une bibliothèque virtuelle qui serait interrogée sur la disponibilité d'un ouvrage (de spéléologie), et qui consulterait automatiquement les bibliothèques nationales.

L'idée que chaque fédération exporte ses données sous le format unimarc Z3950 est écarté. L'utilisation d'un « méta OPAC » est retenue. Il est décidé que :

- Michele Sivelli s'informe en Italie des possibilités d'utilisation d'un logiciel « made in Italia »
- Chaque fédération mette sur son OPAC un lien sur les OPAC des autres fédérations.

Exemple de bibliothèques virtuelles :

www.chvk.ch

http://www.ubka.uni-karlsruhe.de/kvk/kvk/kvk_fr.html

Depuis Vercors 2008, La commission documentation de la FFS a mis à disposition quelques pages internet sur les bibliothèques de spéléologie. Accès par

<http://www.ssslib.ch/bbs/public/francais/index.htm>, voir sous centre de documentation

Participants

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UIS Cave Diving Commission

Commission Plongée de l'UIS

Report to the closing session of the UIS General Assembly at Athens-Kalamos, August 27, 2005

The Commission met on August 25. Twenty five persons attended the meeting and twelve countries were represented: Belgium, Canada, France, Greece, Japan, Lebanon, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom. The future tasks and methods of the Commission were discussed and decided upon.

The Commission will attempt to protect the interest of every committed cave diver to practice his activities as he or she sees it appropriate. To this end, the Commission will try to establish a true representation of all committed cave divers around the world. We will seek to re-enforce our international organization, and its capability to support, on request, any cave divers or their organizations if that interest is compromised. We will establish a framework of principles and guidelines regarding safety, cave protection, landowner relations, etcetera. This framework is to be implemented according to the local technical, legal and cultural situation. The Commission will not seek to impose, but will try to convince, and because of the diversity of cave diving techniques used worldwide, the Commission will not set up rules. We will invite, encourage and support local committed cave divers, or, preferably, their organizations, in the implementation of principles and recommendations. Whatever the framework or guidelines the Commission might devise, local specificities will be respected.

The Commission will collect and disseminate information about cave diving, including (but not limited to) technical developments, guidelines for safety, training and minimizing environmental impact, and about legal, cultural and insurance aspects. Local groups will be invited to supply such information.

The Commission will consist of a Board and Delegates. The Board will comprise a President and two vice-Presidents. Delegates, President and vice-Presidents must be ex-

Rapport pour la séance de clôture de l'Assemblée générale de l'UIS à Athènes-Kalamos du 27 août 2005

La Commission s'est réunie le 25 août 2005. Vingt-cinq personnes y ont participé et douze pays ont été représentés: Belgique, Canada, France, Grèce, Liban, Japon, Norvège, Pays Bas, Portugal, Royaume Uni, Suède et Suisse. Les futures tâches et méthodes de travail de la Commission ont été discutées et les décisions correspondantes prises.

La Commission essaiera de protéger les intérêts de chaque plongeur spéléologue motivé à pratiquer ses activités la façon qui lui convient. A cette fin, la Commission s'efforcera de mettre en place une réelle représentation de tous les plongeurs motivés dans le monde entier. Nous essaierons de renforcer notre organisation internationale, et sa capacité d'appuyer tous les plongeurs, à leur demande, ou leurs organisations si leurs intérêts sont engagés. Nous établirons un ensemble de principes et recommandations concernant la sécurité, la protection des cavités, les relations avec les propriétaires, etc. Ceux-ci seront appliqués en tenant en compte de la situation locale en matière technique, juridique et culturelle. La Commission n'essaiera pas d'imposer mais de convaincre, et du fait de la diversité des techniques de plongée spéléologique utilisées dans le monde, elle n'établira pas de règles. Nous inviterons, encouragerons et soutiendrons les plongeurs locaux, ou de préférence leurs organisations, dans l'application des principes et recommandations. Quel que soit l'ensemble de recommandations proposé par la Commission, les particularités locales seront respectées.

La Commission collectera et disséminera les informations concernant la plongée spéléologique, y compris (mais pas limité à) les développements techniques, les recommandations de sécurité, en matière de formation et pour minimiser l'impact sur l'environnement, ainsi que sur les aspects juridiques, culturels et liés aux assurances. Les groupes locaux seront invités

perienced cave divers, preferably involved in their country's cave diving activities. They should preferably also have administration skills. Delegates must attempt to represent all cave divers in their country. Whenever representative, non-commercial cave diving organizations exist in their country, these will appoint the Delegate. The Delegate should, as a second priority, also be supported by non-profit caving organizations.

Delegates are expected to provide an information channel between the Commission and local organizations. Delegates will contribute to the development of the Commission as a solid representative body and help to collect and disseminate information. Delegates will decide on policy matters, propose a President to the UIS General Assembly, appoint other Board members, and set the limits of competence of the Board, as they see it appropriate. They may replace by a vote any completely inactive member of the Board. Delegates will normally discuss and vote by e-mail, but can choose any other means of communication whenever need arises.

The Board will decide on daily matters, maintain a public page on the UIS web site for the dissemination of information and a private webpage, accessible for the Delegates, where all decisions, polls, incoming and outgoing information will be reported. The Board will also maintain an e-mail forum restricted to Delegates, for internal discussions and voting. Board members will share all information between themselves. The Board will decide by the majority rule. It will maintain and publicise a list of names and addresses of Delegates and Board members. The names and addresses of all Board members will also appear on the UIS officials' list.

The Board will, as a priority, attempt to establish a sound representation. It will contact caving organizations in all affiliated countries and invite them to elect a Delegate to the Commission. We will focus our efforts first on the European caving organisations.

The new Board was elected:

à fournir les informations correspondantes.

La Commission sera constituée d'un Bureau et des délégués. Le Bureau comprendra un Président et deux vice-Présidents. Les délégués, le Président et les vice-Présidents doivent être des plongeurs expérimentés, de préférence impliqués dans la plongée spéléologique de leur pays. Ils est souhaitable qu'ils possèdent aussi des compétences administratives. Les délégués doivent s'efforcer de représenter tous les plongeurs spéléologiques de leur pays. Lorsque des organisations représentatives non commerciales de plongée spéléologique existent dans leur pays, celles-ci nommeront le délégué. Le délégué devra, en deuxième priorité, recevoir aussi l'appui des organisations spéléologiques.

Il est attendu des délégués qu'ils jouent le rôle de courroie de transmission entre la Commission et les organisations locales. Les délégués contribueront au développement de la Commission en tant qu'entité représentative solide et à la collecte et à la diffusion des informations. Les délégués décideront des questions politiques, proposeront un Président à l'Assemblée générale de l'UIS, nommeront les autres membres du Bureau, et délimiteront l'étendue des compétences du Bureau, comme il le leur paraît adéquat. Ils pourront remplacer par vote tout membre du Bureau totalement inactif. Les délégués discuteront et voteront normalement par courrier électronique, mais sont libres de choisir tout autre moyen de communication si nécessaire.

Le Bureau décidera des tâches courantes, gèrera une page publique du site web de l'UIS pour la diffusion des informations et une page à accès restreint, accessible aux délégués, où figureront toutes les décisions, sondages, informations entrantes et sortantes. Le Bureau gèrera également un forum par courrier électronique limité aux délégués, pour les discussions et les votes. Les membres du Bureau partageront entre eux toutes les informations. Le Bureau prendra ses décisions selon la règle de la majorité. Il gèrera et diffusera la liste des noms et adresses des délégués et des membres du Bureau. Les noms et adresses

Proposed President: hilippe Brunet, France
(9 votes out of 12)
ph.brunet@free.fr
Vice- Presidents: Antoine Comaty, Lebanon
(unanimous voting)
acomaty@terra.net.lb

Arjan van Waardenburg, The Netherlands
(unanimous voting)
arjanvanwaardenburg@yahoo.co.uk

Interpretation and translation of minutes of
meeting: Bruno Delprat, France

September 5 - 2005

de tous les membres du Bureau apparaî-
tront aussi sur la liste des officiels de l'UIS.

Le Bureau aura pour priorité de s'efforcer à
mettre en place une forte représentation. Il
contactera les organisations spéléologiques
dans tous les pays affiliés et les invitera à
élire un délégué à la Commission. Nous cen-
trerons nos efforts tout d'abord sur les or-
ganisations spéléologiques européennes.

Le nouveau Bureau a été élu :

Président proposé : Philippe Brunet, France
(9 votes de 12)
ph.brunet@free.fr

Vice- Présidents : Antoine Comaty, Leba-
non (à l'unanimité), acomaty@terra.net.lb
Arjan van Waardenburg, The Netherlands (à
l'unanimité)
arjanvanwaardenburg@yahoo.co.uk
Interprète et traducteur du compte-rendu de
la réunion : Bruno Delprat, France



This was a very, very well organized symposium. More than 50 foreign participants from over 20 different countries attended this event (only continent missing was Africa).

Due to some circumstances, the founder of the Commission – Bill Halliday, and the web-site organizer – John Pint, were also missing. John was supposed to talk about the longest (lava) cave in Saudi Arabia.



Jan Paul van der Pas



Prof. Kyung Sik Woo

The main organizers (Profs. Son and Woo) attracted a large staff, organized a very nice program and have chosen fantastic locations. Lectures were (as always) very diverse. Arni Stefanson had several lectures about Iceland - future plans, discoveries by canoe and lack of protection of fragile caves. New caves reported by Paolo Forti (Rapa Nui, Chile), Stephan Kempe (Jordan), Tim Francis (Payunia, Argentina), and Fadi Nader (Syria).

Of course, local caves were not forgotten. Many lava tubes were visited, but every one was just waiting for Yongchondonggul - the 'fresh' lava-cave with the unique limestone decorations, and also archaeological finds. Visiting this cave is really a privilege. The daily programs alternated from lectures to field-trips. So not only news from all over the world were exchanged, but also highly interesting geological features were visited.

Important was the introduction of a list - called 'WoMOVoc'- world's most outstanding volcanic caves. A commission of five persons was established to judge this list; and all about this issue you can find on: www.worldvolcaniccaves.org. As mentioned before, John Pint is doing a great job to maintain the web-site of this commission. Please check: <http://www.vulcanospeleology.org>

Very important item: where will be the 2010 symposium? This is settled now by Greg Middleton: it will be Australia (probably in August, and will include Undara and Victoria caves). And do not forget the 2009 symposium on Lava Caves, co-chaired by Drs. Stephan Kempe and William R. Halliday, which will be held at the 15th International Congress of Speleology (Kerrville, Texas – USA) next year (19-26 July, 2009).

International News

Iraq (Kurdistan) 2007, Michael Laumanns (Germany)

Not too many cavers will seriously think about going to Iraq at the moment. Consequently, the only comprehensive source on the caves of Iraq is a speleological bibliography published by Claude Chabert, Ray Mansfield & Pierre Strinati in 2000. However, there is a different part of Iraq existing where terrorists and kidnapping are unknown and where people are very hospitable to foreigners: the autonomous region of Kurdistan in the northeast of Iraq. The famous Shanidar Cave from where Neanderthal burials are known is located here. Due to favourable circumstances a Kurdish-German cave surveying project became reality in October/November 2007. This was carried out on invitation of the Kurdish Minister of Tourism and had brilliant logistical support by the Museum of Antiquities in Suleymaniya. Within 3 weeks 21 caves with a total passage length of 8,115 metres were mapped, firmly establishing Kuna Kamtiar as the longest cave of Iraq currently 5,060 m in length (Figure 1). The cave is a complicated network of fossil rift passages created by sulphuric acid water (similar to Lechuguilla Cave, New Mexico, USA). Several continuations of the cave were left in open passage. Consequently, the length of Kuna Kamtiar will increase in the future. Another highlight was Tirshawaka, a limestone cave with a sulphuric spring inside (Figure 2). The sulphuric acid has dissolved the carbonate rock and has produced a rind of replaceable gypsum that covers the cave's roof and walls. The source of the sulphur is supposed to be an underground hydrocarbon deposit. Exploration of Tirshawaka was stopped in wide open river passage due to lack of time. The resurgence of the cave river is supposed to be about 1 km further towards the northeast. There are only a few active caves with sulphuric water known on a world-wide scale – e.g. Kane Caves in Wyoming, Cueva de Villa Luz in Mexico and Movile Cave in Romania, all of which having a unique biospeleology. The cave potential in NE Iraq remains very high and the local authorities are keen to conduct further investigations. In the meantime, a Kurdish speleological society has been formed by the leading 2007 participants from the autonomous Kurdish ministry of tourism. Contact: Zana Qasim Haider (zana@chra.tv). The results of the 2007 expedition is available in English language as volume 26 in the publication series "Berliner Höhlenkundliche Berichte."

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List of the longest caves known in Iraq (as at November 2007):

No.	Cave	Location	Length (in metres)
1.	Kuna Kamtiar	Kirkuk governorate	5,060 m*
2.	Sahra	Sulaimani governorate	1,080 m*
3.	Fasaya	Haditha city (Euphrat valley)	approx. 1,000 m (no survey)
4.	Kuna Baa	Sulaimani governorate	767 m*
5.	Pigeon Cave	Haditha city (Euphrat valley)	approx. 732 m (no survey)
6.	Kouna Kowter/Malan	Dohuk gov. (?), Tahkt-e-Solehman	approx. 650 m (sketch)
7.	Useiba	Publication to be traced	570 m
8.	Gejkar	Sulaimani governorate	438 m*

* Surveyed by the 2007 Kurdish-German cave project.

Figure 1. Map of Kuna Kamtiar cave (Kirkuk governorate, Iraq) with 5,060 m of surveyed galleries.

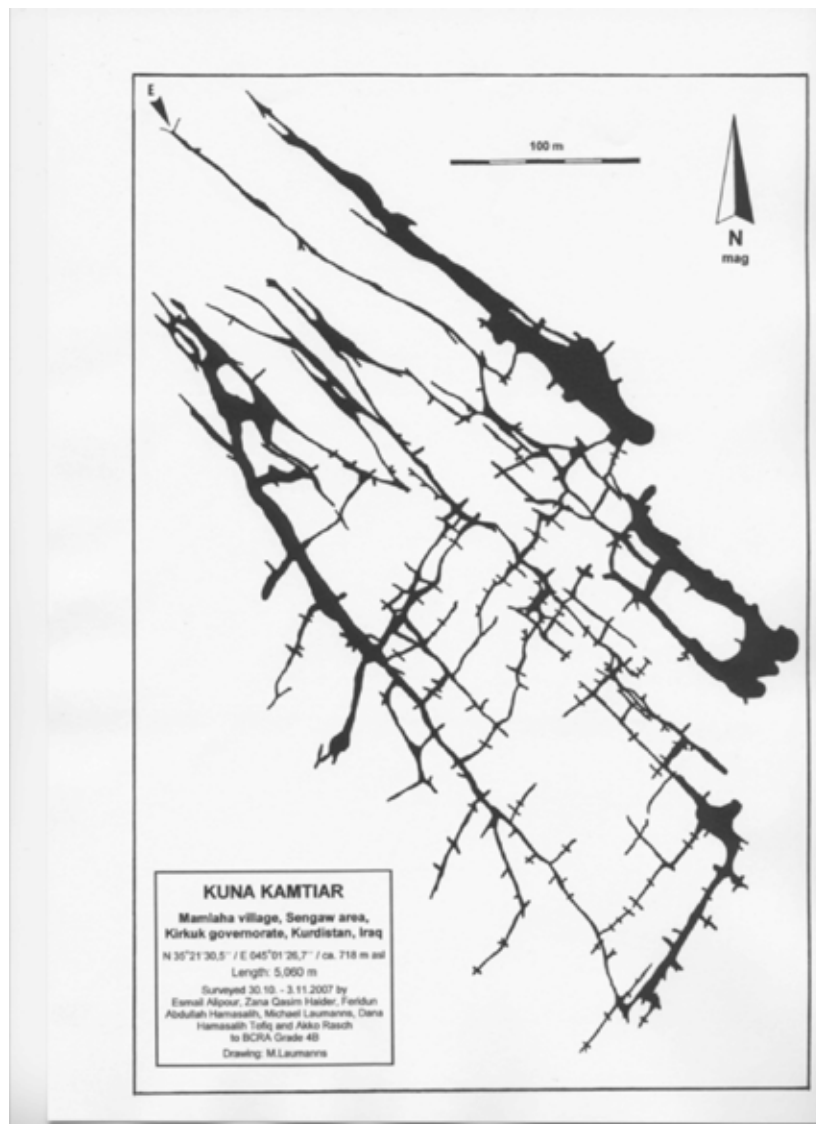


Figure 2. Entrance of Tirs-hawaka (Iraq).



New longest Cave of Gabon

In July/August 2008, in southern Gabon, a US American/German expedition to the Lébam-ba-Ndendé area resulted in the exploration of 13 more caves with a total passage length of about 5.2 km, including the new longest cave of Gabon (Mbenaltembe Cave System at 2,241 m of length). The cave was extended from 700 m length to the currently known extension. The cave consists of a complicated pattern of rift-controlled passages with several independent underground streams. All of the caves are exclusively developed in Precambrian limestones, dolomites and marls of the „Schisto-Calcaire-System“ (West Congo System) of an age exceeding 2 billion years. Many caves in southern Gabon still await exploration and the potential for further discoveries is excellent. The local authorities proved to be very cooperative. The results of the expedition will be made available in English language in the publication series „Berliner Höhlenkundliche Berichte“ in early 2009.

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Cambodia 2008

Between 18th of June and 1st of July, 2008, a small team of two German speleologists (Thomas Bernecker and Michael Laumanns) as well as one British speleologist (Liz Price) investigated the caves in the surroundings of Battambang (north-western Cambodia). The studies were conducted in co-operation with the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts in Phnom Penh as well as the Museum of Antiquities in Battambang. In the Battambang area dolomitic limestone of Upper Permian age occurs as relict hills up to 300 metres in height. Some of these hills form ridges or small interconnected massifs of mountains overlooking the flat surrounding landscape. Most of the hills are densely covered by vegetation and show evidence of strong surficial karstification e.g. pinnacles and karren. Recently, the Battambang region has been subject of academic cave studies with regard to speleothem sampling for paleoclimatic research. Investigations of the Sydney University were carried out in April 2006 with participation of a British speleologist (Andrew Herries). This team described 17 caves in an unpublished report, which partly provides sketch maps of the caves visited. During the 2008 field work 65 caves were registered, 54 of which were visited and 44 were mapped according to international standards. A total of 4,239 metres of cave passages were surveyed. This represents the most comprehensive study of the karst and the caves of the Battambang area so far. Several of the caves are traditionally used by the local population during the Buddhist New Year festivities. Offering places and Buddhist altars are abundant in many caves. Other caves like on the Phnom Sampeu and the Phnom Banan already have importance for the local foreign tourism. This suggests that the tourist potential of some caves visited during the 2008 investigations could be successfully developed. The results of the expedition will be made available in English language in the publication series „Berliner Höhlenkundliche Berichte“ in early 2009.

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Northern Laos

Before the publication of Dreybrodt & Laumanns (Berliner Höhlenkundliche Berichte, vol. 16) which summarises the exploration done between 2000 and 2005, northern Laos was virtually unknown to speleology. Only a few reconnaissance projects were conducted prior to 2000 in the province of Luang Phrabang. The aforementioned publication provided information on 24.3 km of cave passages from 68 caves. In the framework of the „Northern Lao-European Cave Project“ (www.laoscavproject.de) the investigations were continued in 2006 (Louang Nam Tha province, Vieng Phouka), 2007 and 2008 (mainly Houaphan province, Vieng Xai). In the Houaphan province (Vieng Xai) the communist Pathet Lao had its headquarters for 9 years during the Vietnam War. Extensive military and logistical use of caves was made in this heavily bombed region, including underground cave bunkers for the communist party leaders and subterranean hospitals. These historical cave sites are maintained as national monuments and symbolize the birthplace and rise of the communist party of Laos. The caves attract a growing number of foreign visitors. Underground river courses with huge and beautifully decorated cave

passages are abundant and many of them are through caves including the 4.5 km long Tham Nam Long as well as the 3 km long Tham Nam. Nine other caves were explored in 2007 yielding a total of well over 10 km of mapped passages. During the 2008 speleological project 6.7 km of passage from 22 caves were added in the same area, including Tham Ma Liong at 1,565 m of length. The 2008 project was subject of a professional film documentary by ARTE TV channel. Another caving area north of Vieng Thong was briefly visited in the Houaphan province. This region belongs to the Nam Et Phou Louey National Park from where several caves were described by environmental projects with emphasis on eco-tourism. Three days yielded over 2 km of passage from three caves, including the unfinished Tham Thia Thong where about 200 m of passage needs to be added to the already surveyed 1.2 km. Many more caves await exploration. The remaining three of the 15 cave kilometres mapped during the 2007 project came from other regions, mainly from the Phou Khoun area (Luang Phrabang/Vientiane province) where the 2 km long Tham Deu-Tham Dout system consists of two unconnected river caves. Overall, 51.3 km of cave passage from 136 caves has been surveyed to date in northern Laos. The findings of the years 2006- 2008 were published in the "Berliner Höhlenkundliche Berichte" (vol. 32). michael.laumanns@bmf.bund.de

The first -1,000 m deep cave of Germany

Cavers associated to the ArGe Bad Cannstatt have surpassed the -1,000 metre mark for the first time in a cave of Germany. They reached a depth of -1.056 m in the Riesending (Untersberg, Bavarian Alps). The cave has only been discovered six years ago. It is one of the major discoveries in Germany during the recent years.

Ten digits resolution for the protection of the Alpine karst

The IUCN, UIS, FSE as well as the German and Austrian speleological federations have signed a joint resolution on the protection of the Alpine karst during the Untertage Conference in Ramsau (Germany) in November 2007, which has been hosted by the German Speleological Federation. The resolution addresses the human impact on the Alpine karst as well as commercial trade of property. It also calls for the scientific exploration of the Alpine karst areas. See www.vdhk.de (in German language).

First Biosphere area on Earth formed in gypsum karst established in Germany

Just visit www.bioreskarstsuedharz.de

European campaign for the protection of caves launched

A major cave protection initiative has recently been started by all European speleological federations, the FSE as well as the UIS via the European Parliament in order to urge the EU Commission to establish a specific law for the protection of caves. Several discoveries of important caves, e.g. the Blessberghöhle in Eastern Germany during the construction of high-speed railway tunnels have made it clear that caves are difficult to protect if no endangered species or archaeological or palaeontological findings occur inside of them. There is indeed a legislative lack existing to protect caves due to their own merits. All European federations are now working to convince their national EU parliamentarians to sign a resolution that calls for protective measures for caves to be created on Commission level. An information stand will be organised in the European Parliament in Brussels on 11th and 12th of November 2007 as well as a press conference. Visit www.cavedeclaration.eu

Società Speleologica Italiana

Italian International Activities 2003 - 2008

Riccardo Dall'Acqua (*)

This is the summary of Italian speleological activities in foreign countries for the years 2003 and 2004. This list is limited to projects and expeditions with the patronage of Italian Speleological Society (SSI); we estimate this is about 30% of the whole Italian international activities.

Year 2003

Expedition "Immagini di Speleologia Cubana 2003" filming and three-dimensional photography of the Cuban caves of Bellamar and Santo Tomas. Italian and Cuban participants: Gruppo Speleologico San Marco, Centro Ricerche Ipogee Genova, Gruppo Speleologico CAI L'Aquila, Grupo Espeleologico Feliz de la Fuente, Grupo Carlos de la Torres, Comitè Espeleologico Ciudad Habana, Grupo Guaniguanico, Grupo Sierra del Rosario, Escuela Nacional de Espeleologia. Expedition "Matanzas 2003" in Cuba. Cave diving in some sotanos in Matanzas and Cienaga de Zapata). Italian and Cuban participants: Gruppo Speleologico Piemontese CAI UGET, Gruppo Speleologico Alpi Marittime, Gruppo Speleologico CAI Verona, Commissione Speleosub SEC, Comitè Espeleologico de Matanzas. Expedition "Bosnia 2003" exploration in Bosniac Romanija mountains. Italian and Bosniac participants: Gruppo Speleologico Carnico Michele Gortani, Gruppo Grotte Novara CAI, Speleo Dodo Sarajevo. Expedition "San Vicente 2003" in Cuban, Sierra San Vicente (Vinales) a two-step campaign of exploration and survey. Italian and Cuban participants: Gruppo Grotte Milano CAI SEM, Forum Julii Speleo CAI, Gruppo Speleologico Alpi Marittime CAI Cuneo, Gruppo Speleologico Biellese, Comitè Espeleologico de Pinar del Rio, Grupo Espeleologico Guaniguanico, Grupo Jeda, Escuela Nacional de Espeleologia. Hystoplasmosis project: a health survey campaign for Italian cavers staying in Cuba. Care of Società Speleologica Italiana, Milan University mycology. Institute, Sociedad Espeleologica de Cuba. Expedition "Santiago 2003": preliminary survey in Santiago de Cuba karst zone. Participants: independent Italian cavers and Comitè Espeleologico de Santiago de Cuba. Expedition "Projecto Santo Tomas": topography and survey in Cuban cave of Santo Tomas (Vinales). Italian and Cuban participants: Gruppo Puglia Grotte, Federazione Speleologica Pugliese, Speleo Club Cryptae Aliae, Gruppo Speleologico CAI Napoli, Gruppo Speleologico Natura Esplora, Gruppo Speleologico Ruvense, Comitè Espeleologico de Pinar del Rio, Grupo Espeleologico Guaniguanico, Grupo Jeda, Grupo Yabù, Grupo Marcel Loubens, Grupo Tabio, Grupo Sierra del Rosario. Expedition "Cina 2003": topography and survey in Fengshan, China. Organizer: Centro Ibleo di Ricerche Speleo-Idrogeologiche.

Year 2004

Expedition "Siria 2004": cave survey in Syria. Participants: Centro Ibleo di Ricerche Speleo-Idrogeologiche, Petrol and Natural Resources Ministry of Damasco. Expedition "Immagini di Speleologia Cubana 2004": three-dimensional photography and video of the Cuban caves of Bellamar and Zapata peninsula. Italian and Cuban participants: Gruppo Speleologico San Marco, Grupo Espeleologico Feliz de la Fuente, Grupo Carlos de la Torres, Escuela Nacional de Espeleologia. Expedition "Holguin 2004": exploration of Cuban Sierra de Candelaria (Holguin). Italian and Cuban participants: Gruppo Speleologico Belpasso, Comitè Espeleologico Provincial de Holguin

* Riccardo Dall'Acqua. Member of International Relationship Committee of Italian Speleological Society. The committee is founded in 2003, from the positive experience of cultural and caving exchanges between Italian and Cuban Speleological Societies.

Expedition "Xinjiang": cave topography and survey in Xinjiang, China. Participants: Centro Ibleo di Ricerche Speleo-Idrogeologiche, Karst Geology Institute of Guilin.

Expedition "Pindos": cave topography and survey in Pindos mountain, Greece. Participants: Gruppo Speleologico Natura Esplora, Gruppo Speleologico San Giusto, Spileologikos Ellinikos Athlitikos Sullogos.

Project "Grotte senza Confini": speleology class in Bosnia, Sarajevo region. Organizer: Gruppo Speleologico Carnico Michele Gortani, Gruppo Grotte Novara CAI, Speleo Dodo Sarajevo

Expedition "Pinalito 2004": cave topography and survey in the Cuban Sierra de Cubitas. Italian and Cuban participants: Gruppo Speleologico Paleontologico Gaetano Chierici - Reggio Emilia, Comité Espeleologico de Holguin.

Expedition "Sapo del Bellamar": cave topography and survey in Bellamar Cave, Cuba. Italian and Cuban participants: Gruppo Speleologi CAI Malo, CAI Dolo, speleo Club Forlì., Grupo Espeleologico Feliz de la Fuente.

Year 2005

Project "Where Fire and Ice Becomes Dreams": video documentary on Iceland ice caves of Vatnajökull, Mirdalljökull and Surthshellier countries. Participants: Centro Ricerche Ipogee Genova, Islandic Speleological Society.

Expedition "Mitre 2005" exploration of Mitre peninsula, Argentina. Participants: La Venta, Centro Austral de Investigación Científica.

Expedition "Hondutierra 2005" cave topography and survey in Sierra de Agalta, Olancho state, Honduras. Participants: independent Italian cavers and Honduras Institute of History and Anthropology.

Expedition "Madruga" cave topography and survey in Matanzas, Cuba. Participants: Gruppo Speleologico Guidonia Montecelio, Sociedad Espeleologica de Cuba.

Expedition "Etiopia 2005" cave topography and survey in Mechara and Micheta districts, Ethiopia. Participants: Centro Ibleo di Ricerche Speleo-Idrogeologiche, Addis Abeba University Geology department.

Expedition "Progetto Myanmar" cave survey and anthropology research in Pindaung and Taunggyi, Myanmar. Participants: La Venta, Yangon University.

Congress "65° Sociedad Espeleologica Cubana" El Moncada (Vinales), Cuba. Delegation of Società Speleologica Italiana.

Meeting "Incontro CNSAS EDC" cave rescue meeting and technique interchange in Matanzas, Cuba. Participants: Corpo Nazionale Soccorso Alpino e Speleologico, Espeleosoccorso de Cuba.

Expedition "Plan Bonito 2005", cave survey, biospeleology research, linguistic research in Sierra de Agalta (Olancho state), Honduras. Participants: Gruppo Speleologico Sacile, Circolo Speleologico Romano, Associazione Speleologica Italia Centrale, Associazione Ricerche e Studi Demo-Etno-Antropologici, Federazione Umbra Gruppi Speleologici, Speleo Club Roma, Speleo Clube de la Seine, Federacion Espeleologica de Honduras, Parque Eco Arqueologico de las Cuevas de Talgua, Honduras Institute of History and Anthropology.

Expedition "Tsingy De Bemaraha 2005", cave topography and survey in Tsingy De Bemaraha park, Madagascar. Participant: Speleo Club Sperone.

Year 2006

Expedition "Immagini di Speleologia Cubana 2006" three-dimensional photography of Cuban canyon and Cueva del Diablo. Participants: Gruppo Speleologico San Marco, Grupo Espeleologico Feliz de la Fuente

Expedition "Tsingy De Bemaraha 2006", cave topography and survey in Tsingy De Bemaraha park, Madagascar. Participants: Speleo Club Sperone.

Expedition "Mongolia 2006" cave topography and survey in the Gobi, Gobi-Altai andUvsogol zone, Mongolia. Participants: Centro Ibleo di Ricerche Speleo-Idrogeologiche.

Documentary "Grotte e Rivoluzione" (Cave and Revolution) about the life of Sociedad Espeleologica Cubana founder. Participant: Società Speleologica Italiana, Sociedad Espeleologica Cubana, Fundacion Antonio Nunez Jimenez de la Naturaleza y el Hombre

Project "Projecto Bellamar" Cuba cave protection Participants: Federazione Speleologica Veneta, Società Speleologica Italiana, Sociedad Espeleologica de Cuba

Year 2007

Expedition "Marmo Platano" cave topography and survey in Marmo Platano zone, Italy. Participants: Speleo Club Cryptae Aliae, Gruppo Speleologico di Statte, Sociedad Espeleologica de Cuba
Expedition "Turchia" artificial cave topography and survey in Cappadocia, Turkey. Participants: Centro Studi Sotterranei di Genova, Ankara University.
Expedition "Tanzania 2007" cave topography and survey in Mbeya region, Tanzania. Participants: Speleo Club Forlì CAI, Speleologi Romani.
Expedition "Immagini di speleologia cubana 2007" three-dimensional photography in Cuban caves of Matanzas, Escambray, Holguín and Baracoa. Participants: Gruppo Speleologico San Marco, Gruppo Grotte Schio CAI, Comitè Espeleologico de Matanzas.
Expedition "Amazzonia – Il mondo perduto" cave topography and survey in Serra do Aracá (Amazonas state), Brasil. Participants: Akakor Geographical Exploring, Gruppo Speleologico Montecchia, Sociedade Brasileira de Espeleologia, Grupo Espeleologico de Monte Siao.

Expedition "India" geomorphological, hydrogeological and biospeleological research in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Rajasthan regions of India. Participants: Centro Ibleo di Ricerche Speleo-Idrogeologiche, Meghalaya Adventurers' Association, Raipur University School of Life Sciences.

Year 2008

Expedition "Bardas Blancas" cave topography and survey in Malargue zone, Argentina Participant: Terre Incognite, Federacion Argentina de Espeleologia.
Expedition "Tlálloc 2008", cave topography and survey in Malargue in Pueblae Chiapas States, Mexico. Participants: Speleo Club Ibleo, Gruppo Speleologico Belpasso, Gruppo Speleologico Bergamasco Le Nottole, Gruppo Grotte Milano CAI-SEM, Gruppo Grotte i Tassi, Gruppo Speleologico Varesino CAI SSI, Speleo Club Orobico CAI, Unión de Rescate e Investigación en Oquedades Naturales.
Expedition "Libia" speleological, geophysics, geostructural, geomorphological and hydrogeological research in Cirenaica region, Libya. Participant: Centro Ibleo di Ricerche Speleo-Idrogeologiche, Bengasi University Geological Science Department.

Expedition "Petar 2008" cave topography and survey in Petar park, São Paulo state, Brasil. Participant: Akakor Geographical Exploring, Gruppo Speleologico Montecchia, Sociedade Brasileira de Espeleologia, Grupo Espeleologico Babilonicos.
Expedition "Turchia 2008", artificial cave topography and survey in Cappadocia, Turkey. Participant: Centro Studi Sotterranei di Genova, University di Ankara.



Camp in Martin Inferno cave, Cuba (ph. Antonio Danieli).



3D photo of "projecto Bellamar" in a Cuban school
(ph. Antonio Danieli)



Crystals in Cueva de Bellamar, Cuba (ph. Antonio Danieli)



Cavers in the Cuban sierra (ph. Antonio Danieli).

Società Speleologica Italiana

The Società Speleologica Italiana is the only national organization whose role is essentially devoted to speleology in Italy. The first Società Speleologica Italiana was founded in 1903 at Bologna by M. Gortani, G. Trebbi and C. Alzona, and was re-founded after WWII at Pavia in 1951. Currently there are more than 3,500 individual members and about 180 affiliated groups. The Society represents Italian cavers and speleologists: in this capacity it organizes National Congresses and, within the International Union of Speleology, nominates the Italian delegates to International Congresses.

The Società Speleologica Italiana co-ordinates both the activity of Italian cavers abroad (establishing contacts with corresponding societies) and the activity of the foreign cavers in Italy. Foreign cavers are therefore kindly requested to contact the SSI when planning their visit to our country.



The head office of the SSI is in the Department for Geological Sciences of the Bologna University: Società Speleologica Italiana, Via Zamboni 67 - I-40126 BOLOGNA.

The office also hosts the "Centro di Documentazione Speleologica F. Anelli" (CIDS), which is the only thematic library on speleology that is open to the public in Italy.

It is one of the largest speleological libraries in the world, and the largest for ancient books on this subject. Every item is recorded on a personal computer and the library database with a retrieval program (author, title or keywords) is available to everyone.

The Società Speleologica Italiana is responsible for the maintenance of the Italian Cave Register, updated at a regional level by teams of local cavers, mostly coordinated by the regional speleological federations (where they exist). It is one of the most dynamic of the world, with over 36,000 catalogued caves representing a total development of over 2,500 km.

Great importance is given by the SSI to the teaching of speleology, at both popular and scientific levels. The related courses are delivered both at local and national level, using texts and visual aids produced by the SSI.

The Società Speleologica Italiana promotes and co-ordinates the drafting of statutes concerning the protection of caves and karst areas and the development of speleology. Presently, as a consequence of this activity, nearly all Italian Regions have approved statutes concerning speleology.

Publications

The Society publishes several periodicals and occasional books, among which are:

SPELEOLOGIA

Published twice a year with popular papers on explorations and scientific research.

GROTTE D'ITALIA

Published occasionally, presently used for the proceedings of the National congresses.

MEMORIE DELL'ISTITUTO ITALIANO DI SPELEOLOGIA

Published occasionally.

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SPELEOLOGY

Official journal of the International Union of Speleology, published on an irregular basis until 2004, at the moment published six-monthly.

UIS - CAVE DIVING MAGAZINE

Official Journal of the Commission for Cave Diving-UIS, published once a year.

OPERA IPOGEA

Published twice a year, regarding speleology in urban areas and in artificial caves.

For more information:

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Election d'un nouveau bureau à la Fédération Française de Spéléologie

Bernard Lips

L'Assemblée Générale 2008, qui s'est tenu à Lyon le samedi 17 mai était une AG électorale, conformément à nos statuts qui fixent les élections l'année des jeux olympiques d'été.

Le nouveau bureau élu est constitué par :

- * Présidente : Laurence Tanguille
- * Secrétaire général : Jean-Pierre Holvoet
- * Trésorier : Laurent Galmiche
- * Vice-présidente : Annick Menier
- * Vice-président : Olivier Vidal
- * Vice-président : Gille Turgné
- * Secrétaire général adjoint :
- * trésorier-adjoint : José Prévot

En tant que président sortant et restant membre du comité directeur, je souhaite un excellent mandat à cette nouvelle équipe.



Laurence Tanguille lors de l'inauguration de Vercors 2008 (photo P. Deriaz)

Les expéditions françaises à l'étranger en 2007

Olivier Vidal

Trente-cinq expéditions (soit près du record de 2005 : 37) ont été parrainées en 2007. Trois autres expéditions nous ont envoyé un résumé sans demander de parrainage (en italique dans le tableau 1). La CREI les en remercie. Une expédition a été annulée, ce sont donc finalement 37 expéditions qui ont été effectivement réalisées. Nous sommes dans le haut de la fourchette des dix dernières années. Ces expéditions se sont réparties dans 22 pays : dix-sept expéditions dans neuf pays européens, sept expéditions dans cinq pays asiatiques, quatre expéditions dans trois pays des Amériques, six expéditions dans trois pays d'Afrique et trois expéditions dans deux pays d'Océanie. Cinq expéditions avaient pour but la plongée de siphons (n°01-2007, 10-2007, 25-2007, 26-2007 et 29-2007), ce qui représente une augmentation par rapport aux années précédentes. Et deux expéditions avaient pour but la descente de canyons (n°04-2007, 13-2007). Au niveau des destinations, on constate que l'augmentation s'est faite en faveur des pays européens et notamment de la région des Balkans (neuf expéditions). Deux autres destinations ont la côte de part et d'autre du détroit de Gibraltar : Espagne et Maroc (neuf expéditions également pour ces deux pays). La tendance forte en faveur des régions karstiques plus lointaines reste d'actualité. En particulier vers le continent asiatique qui se maintient à un niveau élevé, cette proportion d'expéditions a plus que doublé par rapport aux statistiques des années 80-90. Le continent africain revient en force avec le Maroc et Madagascar. Le continent américain est en baisse, des situations de refus d'autorisations d'explorer dans ces pays sont peut-être en partie responsables de cette évolution. Il y a toujours aussi peu d'expéditions au Moyen-Orient avec seulement deux expéditions en Turquie, le contexte international tendu dans ces régions y est sûrement pour beaucoup. Une niche certainement à explorer pour l'avenir, dans ces régions pourtant si proches ... Le nombre d'expéditions est revenu dans une moyenne haute et les résultats sont à la hauteur. En fixant, comme d'habitude, la barre à 5 km de développement, à l'exploration de nouvelles cavités de plus de 500 m de profondeur ou à des découvertes importantes sur le plan archéologique, neuf expéditions (soit près de 20% des expéditions) se retrouvent dans la liste des « résultats exceptionnels » (n°1, 5, 11, 12, 14, 16, 21, 26, 29-2007). Au total, les expéditions de l'année 2007 ramènent près de 154 km de topographie ce qui peu éloigné du record précédemment tenu par l'année 2006 avec 168 km de topographie réalisés. 2007 est donc une très bonne année en terme de résultats, puisqu'elle se situe près de deux fois au dessus de la moyenne qui tourne, bon an, mal an, autour de 80 km. Que 2008 soit riche en exploration !

Le résumé de l'ensemble de ces expéditions est accessible dans le compte rendu d'activités de la CREI (Commission des Relations et Expéditions Internationales).

A signaler qu'un bon nombre de ces expéditions se sont déroulés avec des spéléologues locaux ou/et avec des spéléologues d'autres nationalités.

Les expéditions françaises 2007

N°	Expédition	Pays	Région	Dates	Club
1	Siphons sous la jungle	Papouasie NG	Nouvelle-Bretagne	12/06-01/07 à fin 03/07	EuroSpeleo Project 2007-01
2	Atlas 2007	Maroc	Moyen et Haut Atlas	Annulée 06/08/07-	GS Minos
3	Macédoine-Krapa 2007	Macédoine	Makedonski Brod	30/08/07 - 18/01/07 -	ASBTP section spéléologie
4	Expédition canyon au Népal	Népal	Tour des Annapurnas	05/03/07 - 20/01/07 -	GS Caussenard /
5	Vietnam 2007	Vietnam	Cao Bang	10/02/07 - 04.08.07 -	EXPLOS/SSPAO SC du
6	Las Olas 2007	Espagne	Aragon	26.08.07 - 06/08/2007 -	Comminges
7	Bamba 2007	Pérou	Cajamarca	06/09/2007 - 08/03/07 -	SCLN Aven Club
8	Philippines 2007	Philippines	Western Samar	16/04/07 - 28/07/07 -	Valettois
9	Habeckovo Brezno	Slovénie	Secteur d'idrija	19/08/07 - 01/09/07 -	SC de Metz GS du
10	Muna 2007	Indonésie	Sulawesi-Pulau Muna	01/10/07 - 01/06 -	Couserans GS Bagnols
11	Descoberto 2007	Brésil	Commune Descoberto, province Bahia	01/07/2007 - 10/03/2007 -	Marcoule
12	Guizhou expé 007	Chine	Guizhou	16/04/2007 - 18/03/07 -	PSC-JA
13	France Vietnam canyon	Vietnam	Hauts plateaux centre	01/04/07 - 22/07/2007 -	USAN
14	Borneo 2007	Indonésie	Kalimantan	28/08/2007 - 28/07/2007 -	GS Vulcain GS du
15	Baticiellas 2007	Espagne	Aragon	15/08/2007 - 28/03/2007 -	Languedoc
16	Mexpé 2007	Mexique	Puebla	29/04/2007 - 04/08/07 -	Jacques Orsola
17	Gabon 2007	Gabon	Nyanga	02/09/07 - 24/09/2007 -	EEGC
18	Lost Valleys 2007	Népal	Manang	10/11/2007 - 01/08/2007 -	A R S I P
19	Crna Gora 2007	Monténégro		30/08/2007 - 28/04/2007 -	GS Olioulais
20	Tara Pesterilor	Roumanie	Mt Aposeni	09/05/2007 - 22/04/2007 -	SC d'Annecy
21	Namoroka 2007	Madagascar	Parc national de Namoroka	03/06/2007 - 02/04/2007 -	SC Bollenois
22	Gs Bidon - Maroc 2007	Maroc	Gorges du Ziz	15/04/2007 - 23/07/2007 -	GS Bidon CATAMARAN
23	Levka-Ori 2007	Grèce	Crête	25/08/2007 - 14/06/2007 -	P25-004 CAF de St
24	Slovénie 2007	Slovénie	Massif du Kanin, du Frioul et du Sneznik	29/06/2007 - 15/08/2007 -	Laurent du Var
25	Plongée souterraine Roumanie 2007	Roumanie	Carpates	02/09/2007 - 04/09/2007 -	GEOKARST
26	Centre Atlas 2007	Maroc	Azilal (Atlas)	04/10/2007 - 19/06/2007 -	CDS 81 GS Oloron et
27	Haut Atlas 2007	Maroc	Haut Atlas	03/07/2007 - 15/08/2007 -	SSPPO Pau
28	Planalto 2007	Portugal	Extremadura	25/08/2007 - 05/07-30/08	SSA Caussade
29	Porracolina 2007	Espagne	Cantabria	8/28/10-07/11 - 10/08/2007 -	CAF Albertville CSR Languedoc-
30	Taurus 2007	Turquie	Taurus-Areseki	10/09/2007 - 30/08/07 -	Roussillon GS Bagnols
31	Santiago 2007	Pérou	Pce Condorcanqui - Dpt Amazonas	25/09/07 - 04/08/07 -	Marcoule
32	Picos Padiorna 2007	Espagne	Asturies	14/08/07 - 09/07/2007 -	AS Charentaise Les Taupes
33	Picos 2007	Espagne	Picos de Europa	16/07/2007 - 27/07/2007 -	Palmées
34	Vega Huerta 2007	Espagne	Cantabriques	12/08/2007 - 09/11/07 -	SCSM
35	Tsingy 2007	Madagascar	Nord et ouest	13/12/07 - 1998-2007 (4 expés)	ADEKS Sté - Amateurs de Cavernes
100	Crête 1998-2007	Grèce			
101	Plongée Bosnie 2007	Bosnie			GS Vulcain
102	Serbie 2007	Serbie			GS Vulcain

Bilan du IVème congrès européen «Vercors 2008 » à Lans en Vercors.

Olivier Vidal

Le Congrès Européen de Spéléologie, qui s'est déroulé à Lans en Vercors du 23 au 30 août 2008, a été un succès. Trente deux pays ont participé à cette grandiose manifestation au cœur de ce haut lieu de la spéléologie qu'est le Vercors. C'est ici que le gouffre Berger est devenu le premier gouffre à franchir la barrière symbolique des moins 1000 m (-1122m) grâce aux Spéléos Grenoblois du CAF. Et, coïncidence heureuse, juste avant le congrès, 55 ans plus tard, le SGCAF encore, trouve le passage qui fait du Réseau du Clos d'Aspres le deuxième moins 1000 du Vercors. Quel beau cadeau de la part de spéléos locaux, pour les 2000 explorateurs du monde souterrain qui ont participé au congrès.

Que restera-t-il de ce congrès européen organisé par la Fédération Française de Spéléologie ?

Tout d'abord pour ceux qui y ont participé un grand moment de confraternité spéléo dans une chaleureuse ambiance, largement favorisée par une météo estivale exceptionnelle, durant toute la semaine. Pour les organisateurs, l'impression d'une explosion de long haleine qui se termine par une belle première.

Pour le reste que s'est-il passé ?

Des moments très formels de réunion comme l'assemblée générale de la Fédération Spéléologique de l'Union Européenne qui en a profité pour changer de nom. et devenir la Fédération Spéléologique Européenne ou la signature du protocole franco-allemand, des réunions de commissions, mais aussi des moments de partage des découvertes dans les différentes sessions et des grands moments de convivialités. Les scientifiques, explorateurs, techniciens, secouristes ou enseignants ont pu suivre et animer plus de 200 conférences et tables rondes en traduction simultanée grâce à un groupe de jeunes étudiants qui ont fait leurs premières armes d'interprètes à la grande satisfaction de tous. Les actes, disponibles dès l'ouverture du congrès, sont le témoin de la qualité du contenu des communications.

Un des grands événements fut sans aucun doute le record du monde de tyrolienne sur corde, de 1096 m, sur le site du Pas des Rages à la Balme de Rencurel. La plus grande tyrolienne du monde a été dénommée la Tyrolienne Pierrot Rias en hommage au fondateur du Spéléo Secours Français. Une centaine de personnes a pu tester la résistance de la corde Courant tissée spécialement pour l'occasion, grâce à l'efficacité de toute l'équipe en charge du projet. Indépendamment du record du monde, attesté par le Peloton de Gendarmerie de Haute Montagne(cf encadré), la fédération démontre au grand jour la performance technique de ses membres et tout particulièrement du Spéléo Secours Français.

Un congrès spéléo ne peut se concevoir sans que ses participants aillent sous terre, ce sont donc plus de 1700 sorties qui ont été recensées dans les trous équipés pour l'occasion par le CDS 38 et le CDS 26 et tout particulièrement dans le Gouffre Berger. Ceux que le noir rebutaient ont pu tester leurs capacités reptiliennes dans le, désormais internationalement connu, parcours palette du CDS 07, ou dans la Spéléo-Box de nos amis belges des Sus-Pendus, où on atteignait, les jours de grande affluence, plus de 400 passages.

Autre temps fort de ce rassemblement,, le festival « EuroSpéléo Image'In » a permis au public d'assister à la projection de plus de cent films dont certains mis en compétition.. Vendredi soir, une grande fête a clôturé ce 4ème congrès avec une remise des prix. Le prix spécial du jury est allé à Florence TRAN (France) pour « Hors du temps » qui retrace avec

émotion et sensibilité les expériences de Michel Siffre sur l'horloge biologique humaine. Le Grand Prix a récompensé « Tepuy » du Slovaque Pavol BARABAS, qui est le récit captivant d'une expédition souterraine difficile au Venezuela. Le public a donné son prix à l'Italien Tullio BERNABEI qui l'a fait frissonner avec « The vortex Blue » dans des plongées sous glaciaires au Chili. Les projections en 3D ont ébahi les spectateurs. Le jury a eu l'embarras du choix devant une production de qualité : Csaba EGRI avec « grottes hongroises » et David DE ROEST (Belgique) avec « Explosion », se sont partagés le prix. Une centaine de photos, sélectionnées avant le congrès, ainsi que d'autres hors concours, ont charmé tous les visiteurs. Le prix émotion est allé à Tim WABBER (GB) et le prix mouvement à Marcin GALA (Pol). La soirée a continué avec la remise du prix Martel – de Joly à Marc FAVERJON et Philippe BRUNET pour le livre « la grotte de Saint Marcel d'Ardèche ». Vercors 2008 c'est aussi, le 2^{ème} festival international des Arts Spéléo qui avait comme thème « peintures et créations d'art », ou bien l'exposition du musée de la spéléologie ou encore la participation de plus d'une centaine de personnes à la 12^{ème} nuit européenne de la chauve-souris dans la grotte de la Luire. Le canyon était aussi présent au congrès avec le Rassemblement International de Canyon qui a permis des échanges, de belles balades dans une douzaine de canyons équipés, et le nettoyage du canyon du Craponno, des films et des récompenses remis aux féminines au cours de la soirée de gala de mercredi.

Ce qui restera aussi dans les annales comme le cœur du congrès fut ce grand navire de toile érigé tout près du village, du parcours palettes et de la Spéléo-Box : Le Spéléo-Bar. Lieu de rencontre, de restauration, de détente ou de perdition selon les heures de la journée ou de la nuit, il fut sans conteste l'endroit où palpitait le cœur du congrès !

Vercors 2008 fut organisé avec le souci d'appliquer certains principes liés au développement durable : le choix de ne pas utiliser de vaisselle jetable a permis de réduire la masse des déchets et les participants ont bien adopté le geste du tri sélectif. Toutefois des progrès restent à faire mais pour une première initiative, le résultat est satisfaisant.

Le congrès étant ouvert à toutes les classes d'âges, les enfants n'ont pas été oubliés puisqu'ils avaient le choix d'aller au club junior, se contorsionner dans la Spéléo-Box ou entre les palettes, écouter des contes ou du théâtre, peindre comme les hommes préhistoriques et faire de la voltige dans les arbres. Les « Enfants de la lune » ont aussi participé à Vercors 2008, en vivant leurs jours de liberté totale, sans protection solaire, à Gournier, avec le GS Valentinois.

Près de 150 bénévoles ont contribué à l'organisation, trois ans de travail pour certains, et une semaine que beaucoup ne sont pas près d'oublier. Que tous soient remerciés de leur investissement. Rendons également hommage à Monsieur le Maire de Lans en Vercors et aux services de la mairie qui nous ont grandement facilité la tâche.

LA UIS EN AMERICA LATINA

UIS IN LATIN AMERICA

CARLOS BENEDETTO - SECRETARIO ADJUNTO UIS - ARGENTINA

Abstract

There is an increasing presence of the UIS in the countries that comprise the FEALC (Speleological Federation of Latin American and Caribbean) organizations working with common objectives and forward integration. The speleological projects of Latin America increasingly tend to be joint-ventures and UIS has accompanied this process. We emphasize in this contribution the first results of the efforts to rehabilitate the Speleology and especially the Bioespeleology in Argentina, the results of the expedition to the caves of Tri-national Vallemí (Paraguay), the agreements for the formation of cave rescuers and problems in legislation, topics on which stood out acts of mutual cooperation

En el número anterior (51- Nro. 2) hicimos referencia al Congreso Argentino realizado en Malargüe en febrero, que fue más latinoamericano que meramente argentino, lo cual se aprecia en la variedad de trabajos y resúmenes publicados (<http://www.inae.org.ar/congresos.html>).

Dijimos también que en esa ocasión se llevó a cabo una reunión oficial de la FEALC en la que se decidió reclamar al gobierno de la provincia argentina de Neuquén la rehabilitación de los espeleólogos, hasta el momento imposibilitados de explorar las cuevas de esa importante provincia. Así fue que luego de largas gestiones, el 22 de agosto el gobierno neuquino convocó a las agrupaciones espeleológicas locales para iniciar un proceso de diálogo y de reivindicación.

Paralelamente, las asociaciones no locales, las más vinculadas a los equipos técnicos de la FEALC y la UIS, retomaban gestiones para reiniciar investigaciones científicas en cavernas protegidas (que también estaban imposibilitadas), sobre todo en el terreno de la Bioespeleología y con intervención de biólogos de otras provincias.

El proceso es lento, pero parece ser que ya no se detiene.

En lo que respecta al desarrollo de la Bioespeleología, el principal hecho destacable fue que en la reunión FEALC de Malargüe (febrero) se aprobó un proyecto del espeleólogo mexicano Juan Montaña Hirose (UMA) para que la FEALC apoye una campaña internacional de protección de los

murciélagos y control de la rabia. El proyecto fue ratificado en la reunión de Vallemí-Paraguay (junio) y se puso en marcha, con el compromiso de varios países miembros de esa Federación.

En el caso argentino, desde fines del año 2007 se venía conformando un grupo de biólogos interesados en la protección de los murciélagos, que entraron en contacto con este proyecto de la FEALC relacionándose con los espeleólogos. Su nombre es Programa de Conservación de los Murciélagos de la Argentina – PCMA (similar al de su par mexicano Programa de Conservación de los Murciélagos Mexicanos y al del boliviano Programa de Conservación de los Murciélagos de Bolivia y a otros similares en otros países) y en principio estaba conformado por unos 45 biólogos de todo el país interesados en los murciélagos urbanos. Pero poco a poco creció el interés en los murciélagos de cavernas, y en noviembre de este año se organizó una expedición conjunta a los tubos lávicos de Malargüe donde miembros del PCMA tomaron contacto con la Espeleología de campo. Más información sobre esto puede verse en <http://www.pidba.com.ar/pcma.html>, <http://www.barbastella.org/> y sus respectivos links, que son muchos.

El acercamiento al PCMA forma parte del Plan de “Desarrollo Estratégico” de la Federación argentina; pero no solamente, ya que en otros países de la región se están dando procesos muy parecidos y en estrecho contacto unos con otros.

Expedición Trinacional Vallemí - Paraguay

En nuestro anterior boletín dimos algunos detalles de cómo se gestó y se realizó la primera Expedición Espeleológica Trinacional (en la que en realidad participaron 5 países de Latinoamérica, no 3).

A poco de finalizada la misma, un equipo técnico de argentinos y brasileños elaboró un informe técnico (<http://www.inae.org.ar/contenidos.html> - Informe Vallemí), que los espeleólogos de Paraguay están ahora utilizando como herramienta para proteger a las cavernas de esa región del norte paraguayo contra actividades económicas fuera de todo control.

Reunión de espeleólogos en Vallemí, Paraguay con la FEALC y la UIS

Problemas en la legislación de Brasil

Dijimos que los reclamos de la FEALC y la UIS conjuntamente habían empezado a dar resultados en una provincia argentina, pero en Brasil el problema fue –sigue siendo- de diferente magnitud y gravedad.

Ya en 2007 los espeleólogos de Brasil y de toda América Latina estuvieron preocupados por los anuncios de que la legislación brasileña de protección a las cavernas sufriría modificaciones en sentido negativo.

A fines de ese año la FEALC dirigió una nota al presidente Luis Ignacio “Lula” Da Silva para manifestar esa preocupación, pero sin resultados.

Un año después, en octubre de 2008, supimos que el gobierno brasileño había concretado la modificación de las leyes, y eso puso en alerta a toda la comunidad espeleológica brasileña y latinoamericana, porque ahora corren peligro casi 5.000 cavernas de ese país.

Se produjeron muestras de solidaridad de la FEALC en general, y de cada país miembro de la FEALC en particular. Hasta tal punto, que la Federación Argentina decidió llevar la solidaridad al plano político pidiendo la intervención de las autoridades del MERCOSUR y del Parlamento argentino. Las cartas dirigi-

das a los poderes públicos pueden verse en www.inae.org.ar – NOTICIAS (13-11-2008) Aunque espeleólogos brasileños estaban tomando contacto entre sí -a pesar de sus diferencias políticas internas- y con legisladores de su país, este grave problema está aún sin resolverse y es muy severa la preocupación sobre el futuro de las cavernas del Brasil, ello a pesar de que los espeleólogos y ambientalistas coinciden en que las reformas legales son técnicamente inaplicables..

Espeleosocorro

La FEALC tiene una comisión de Espeleosocorro a cargo de Efraín Mercado, vicepresidente de la FEALC y secretario adjunto de la UIS. Desde hace años esta comisión viene desarrollando cursos para la formación de socorristas en diversos países de la región: Cuba, Argentina, recientemente Centro América, donde se destaca el caso de Honduras, país que ha conformado una Unión de Espeleología muy activa no sólo en su propio país, sino también en toda la región. La Comisión coordinada por Efraín Mercado asesora permanentemente a los nuevos socorristas latinoamericanos, y distribuye la información generada por la Comisión respectiva de la UIS.

Complementariamente con esto, la Federación Española de Espeleología, a través de su Escuela, ha avanzado en la firma de convenios para el dictado de cursos de distintos niveles con Brasil, Bolivia, Argentina. En este último caso, el convenio fue firmado a fines de 2005 entre las escuelas de ambas federaciones, y el primer curso fue dictado en Malargüe en octubre.

En cuanto a Brasil, se realizaron ya varios cursos y se espera para diciembre uno específico para la formación de jefes de equipo. Se estaba también estudiando la posibilidad de participación de espeleólogos de otros países, específicamente Argentina.

Estrategias comunes y solidaridad

2008 mostró que la espeleología latinoamericana puede crecer en el marco de planes estratégicos específicos y en el marco de la unidad y la mutua cooperación. La perma-

nente interrelación entre las federaciones, uniones y sociedades nacionales hace que, a pesar de las disparidades, el crecimiento de la Espeleología latinoamericana siga caminos parecidos en todos los países miembros de la FEALC. La UIS y la comunidad espeleológica extra-latinoamericana

estuvieron presentes en este proceso, y debería estarlo aún más, con apoyo técnico pero también político.

Curso de Espeleosocorro – Argentina, octubre





Expédition Internationale de Spéléologie en Iran 2008 ISET 2008 International Speleological Expedition to Iran 2008

Summary : The international speleological expedition to Iran (ISET 2008) took place from September 23 to October 6, 2008 in the region north of Tehran (up to the Caspian Sea) and Hamadan (SE of Tehran). This expedition, which is under the patronage of the UIS, resulted in basic training of up to 39 Iranian cavers on the following subjects: 1) exploration (surface and subsurface), 2) technical review and stress on caving SRT methods, 3) cave surveying, and 4) cave photography and filming. Members of the ISET 2008 foreign team consisted of nine Croatian, three Lebanese, one Belgian and one Swiss cavers. Two new caves were discovered and more than 1000m of new galleries have been mapped.

L'expédition internationale 'ISET 2008' s'est déroulée entre le 23 septembre et le 6 octobre 2008 dans les régions des Provinces de Téhéran et de Hamadan, en Iran. Cette expédition est sous le patronage de l'UIS (Union Internationale de Spéléologie) et se situe dans le cadre d'un mouvement international visant à aider et soutenir les spéléos dans les pays où la spéléologie est encore en développement. Les objectifs de l'ISET 2008 (qui ont été définis par les organisateurs iraniens et internationaux de l'expédition) sont sous formes de séances d'entraînement dans les domaines suivants : 1) exploration/prospection en surface et sous terre ; 2) révision technique et notions de bases de secours, 3) topographie souterraine, et 4) photographie souterraine (film aussi).

L'internet a été l'outil primordial pour l'organisation pre-expedition. Erik VdBroeck (Belgique) nous a maintenu le site qui a été conçu spécialement pour les préparations et l'organisation d'une expédition qui a regroupée plus de 20 spéléos internationaux ainsi que les organisateurs iraniens. Cette démarche – un site de communication entre participants – nous a toujours bien servi depuis notre première expédition internationale (Tanzanie, 2004). Quelques réunions ont été aussi nécessaires...

Finalement l'équipe internationale de l'ISET

2008 comptait neuf Croates, trois Libanais, un Belge et un Suisse (avec un anglais qui est arrivé en Iran plus tard), donc 14 à 15 participants, qui ont formé environ 38 spéléos iraniens, divisé en deux groupes de 19 personnes pour 5 jours.

Donc, Onze jours de travail effectif (entre le 24 septembre et le 6 octobre 2008) au cours d'un camp volant qui a commencé à Téhéran le 24 septembre avec le « kick-off » de l'expédition dans l'ancien club de Damavand. De suite, le cap au nord, notre premier abri sera une maison dans le village de Harandeh tout près (seulement à une heure et demi de marche!) de la grotte de Bournic. Deux jours sont passés avant notre départ vers Polur où on a logé dans les locaux des pompiers. La grotte de Gole Zard, exemple parfait de la destruction de grotte, était à deux heures de marche. Le lundi 29 septembre, on a quitté les lieux et on s'est dirigé au nord, vers la mer Caspienne. Le lendemain, une rapide exploration de la grotte Danial a côté de Chalous. On a repris la route pour retourner vers le sud en direction de la province de Hamadan. En route on s'est arrêté pour deux jours dans le haut village de Kohnedeh où se trouve la fameuse grotte de Yakhmorad avec ses cascades de glaces. Finalement, on a trouvé abri dans la mosquée du village de GhaleKord dans la province de Hamadan où on a exploré et cartographié la fameuse grotte du village et en bonus

on a trouvé une autre grotte archéologique. Le 6 octobre on est retourné sur Teheran où une grande cérémonie nous attendait (y compris les ambassadeurs de la Croatie et de la Suisse ainsi que des hauts-placés du gouvernement iranien) pour nous féliciter.

Notre bilan est donc très positif. Nous avons entraîné 38 spéléos iraniens (qui ne dissociaient pas les techniques d'escalades des techniques de spéléologie) venus de plus de 12 clubs différents de plusieurs villes un peu partout de l'Iran. Notre entraînement a couvert nos objectifs, à savoir l'exploration, technique de base, topographie, photographie et film. Les grottes de Bournic et Ghale Kord ont été topographiées ; celles-ci avec deux autres nouvelles grottes (découvertes durant l'expé) font plus de 1000m de galeries souterraines topographiées. Durant les soirées, plusieurs présentations de formation et de films spéléologiques ont pris place. Deux manuels d'entraînement (technique de base et topographie souterraine), préparés en anglais par l'équipe Croate avant l'expédition, ont été distribués et utilisés durant la formation. Enfin, la publication d'un rapport d'expédition illustré (en anglais et farsi) et le montage d'un documentaire sont en cours.

Notre dernier message aux spéléos iraniens (à nos amis) était de séparer complètement les techniques de l'escalade alpine des techniques de progression sous terre (la SRT). A leurs supérieurs, nous avons précisé qu'une tutelle indépendante de la fédération de montagne et d'escalade reste à former pour prendre charge des spéléos et de la protection des grottes. Ainsi pour les officiels du gouvernement, nous les avons implorés de soutenir la nouvelle génération de spéléos et de les utiliser en outils pour sauvegarder la richesse souterraine en Iran.

Fadi Nader
Coordinateur de la ISET 2008
Secrétaire Général de l'UIS

L'entrée de la grotte de GhaleKord (ou le château des Kurdes) vue de l'intérieur. Le but de l'ISET 2008 finalement est de montrer aux jeunes spéléos iraniens que la com-

munauté internationale tient à eux et à leur amitié et que le futur c'est à eux de le bâtir...
Photo prise par Johnny Tawk © ISET2008

The entrance of GhaleKord Cave (or the Castle of the Kurds). The ultimate goal of the ISET 2008 was to show the young Iranian cavers that the international community believes in their friendship and that their future is up to them to build...
Photo taken by Johnny Tawk © ISET2008



For International Speleo Calendar please check:
<http://www.uis-speleo.org/calendar/events.html>

International Journal of Speleology



I just received the printed issue 37(3) Oktober 2008, guest-edited by Dominique Genty, totally dedicated to Palaeoclimate. It contains 6 articles for over 90 pages of Science. This year the IJS has printed 234 pages (over 3 issues). I remember this is an extra issue (the third this year) totally sponsored by voluntary donators, and I wish to thank all these speleologist and institutions for their efforts in helping the IJS.

We already are working hard on the first issue of 2009, IJS 38(1), a special issue on Cave Microbiology, guest-edited by Cesareo Saiz (Sevilla Univ.). This issue promises to be rich (9 articles have already been accepted) and 4 of these articles are available online since this morning (see homepage of the www.ijs.speleo.it website). We expect to close this issue by mid December, in order to have it sent worldwide during January 2009. Since we are now listed in ISI we have to try and keep timeliness in publication of our issues!

We also have already 5 articles in for the IJS 38(2) issue to be printed in July (before ICS Kerrville). I hope more will come in soon because it would be good to have a rich issue at July. Please see if you or some of your colleagues and friends have something interesting to propose for that issue!

I am now in close contact with Wiley Blackwell to see if IJS can be taken over (for the burocratical part) by this important Scientific Publishing Company. I will notify you of important issues regularly. It is important for us to see if this change is viable and, if it is, to make a good contract. I will be meeting the WB people at the EGU 2009 at Vienna in April. Anyone of you is invited to be there also (four or six ears and eyes are better than two!). We probably will discuss the matter with UIS also at the ICS at Kerrville (where many of us will be present), so that we can finalise the contracts in Autumn 2009. This would mean, if everything goes smoothly, that IJS could be printed by WB beginning with 2010.

Finally, I have to inform you of an Editorial Staff change: Prof. Meilang Zhang, who was member of the Editorial staff since January 2006, has informed me he wished to leave the staff because he could not dedicate enough time to the IJS. I very much appreciate his sincerity and asked him to suggest an alternative Chinese karst scientist. His choice fell on a colleague of his, Dr. Zaihua Liu, editor-in-chief of *Carsologica Sinica*, working on karst hydrochemistry, tufa deposits, global carbon cycle and karst and palaeoclimate - hydrology. Dr. Zaihua Liu accepted to be part of our Editorial Staff beginning with issue 38(1) 2009. I hope we all will welcome Zaihua in our IJS world and I wish him very much success with this new editorial task!

Ans many thanks to Prof. Meilang Zhang for his three years of work at IJS.

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International Union of Speleology

The Union Internationale de Spéléologie (UIS) is the international body for caving and speleology. Formed in 1965, its voting members consist of a delegate from each member country. This delegate represents the country's cavers and speleologists, rather than its national body(s). An elected Bureau runs the affairs of UIS between the 4-yearly General Assemblies held at the International Congresses. The actual speleological work of UIS is done by the members of its Commissions and Working Groups, which are open to everyone who is interested.

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