

February 2012

UIS Bulletin, Volume 54, No. 1 & 2, 2011

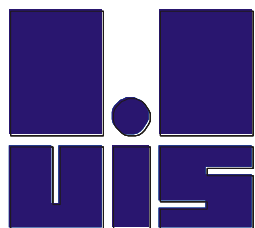
Fadi Nader

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/uis_bulletin

Recommended Citation

Nader, Fadi, "UIS Bulletin, Volume 54, No. 1 & 2, 2011" (2012). *UIS Bulletin*. 22.
https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/uis_bulletin/22

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Newsletters and Periodicals at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in UIS Bulletin by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usf.edu.



BULLETIN

Union Internationale de Spéléologie

2011, volume 54, numbers 1 & 2
Edited in February 2012

CONTENTS

UIS 2011 News (by Vice President of Administration)	2
UIS President's Report on ICSU Meeting	3
Minutes of the 2011 Annual UIS Bureau Meeting	4
Report on the 19 th International Karstological School	9
Cave Diving: 2ième Stage UIS de Perfectionnement (Liban)	10
UIS KHS Commission at Karst Conference (Bowling Green, USA)	16
UIS KHS Commission New Project (HypoKarst)	18
Speleogenesis Website: Important Developments	19
3 rd Middle East Speleology Symposium (Lebanon)	20
PARAGUAY: a Law for Cave and Karst Protection	21
Tribute to Bernard Urbain (1952 - 2011)	23
UIS Bureau 2009 – 2013	24
National Delegates and Substitutes	24
UIS Departments, Commissions, and Working Groups	26
Contributions and Bank Account	28

Editor in Chief: Fadi Nader (UIS, Secretary General)

UIS 2011 NEWS

George Veni

Vice President of Administration

In 2011 the UIS was at a halfway point in many ways. Most obviously, it was halfway between its international congresses and general assemblies.

The UIS Bureau met in Jedovnice, in the heart of the Czech Republic's Moravian Karst, for its annual meeting and to inspect the progress of the 16th International Congress of Speleology (ICS). The 16th ICS will be held 19 km to the south in the city of Brno on 21-28 July 2013. The Bureau was impressed with the quality of the Organizing Committee, their progress, and the conference facilities in Brno. The ICS will be held in beautiful buildings designed for conferences, with hotels, dormitories, and camping within easy walking distances, and all in a lovely and historic city.

The Bureau's meeting, and work between the meetings, has included good revisions to the Internal Regulations to improve the way the Bureau and UIS work with speleologists and speleological organizations. We look forward to presenting those changes to the next General Assembly.

One important change we are working on is the UIS website. The website needs to be updated but first it has needed a team to work on it. We now have assembled that team:

- Website manager:
Jasmina RIJAVEC (Slovenia)
- Addresses Manager:
Emerson Gomes PEDRO (Brazil)
- Calendar Editor:
Ken REDEKER (USA)
- Technical Manager:
Charles GOLDSMITH (USA)

Peter Matthews (Australia) has been working for many years to maintain the website and the UIS thanks him greatly for his excellent service. With this new team we expect



Exhibit Hall for the 16th ICS.

to see more updates, improvements, and a faster response than what was possible for one man.

One man also once did much of the work of the UIS since its beginning, the Secretary General. Two years ago that changed with new Internal Regulations that gave most of the Secretary's responsibilities to the two vice presidents. Christian Dodelin was elected Vice President of Operations (VPO) and I was elected Vice President of Administration (VPA). The VPO coordinates the UIS publications and website. The VPA works with the Departments, Commissions, and Working Groups, and assists the next ICS. In 2011, the Bureau began giving specific jobs to its Adjunct Secretaries, so by spreading the work among everyone, we can do more work, and do it better and faster to support international speleology.

If you have suggestions on how the UIS can better serve speleology, or if you want to help, please contact me or any other Bureau member.

UIS President's Report to UIS Bureau on ICSU MEETING

UIS: Associate Member of ICSU (as of 2011)

Rome – 27th to 30th September 2011

I thought I would send a report round to the other UIS Bureau members on my recent attendance at the Annual General Meeting of ICSU – International Council for Scientific Unions.

It is possible that many people like me, 10 days ago, don't really know what ICSU is. It is actually a non-governmental organisation of scientific institutions and scientific representatives from most countries.

The meeting was held in the FAO building in Rome, which is a UN establishment working on World agriculture with about 3,000 employees. They have a Council room with about 300 delegate positions, each with an individual microphone and seven integral booths for simultaneous translation (the meeting was entirely in English).

UIS had our own name plate and designated position between Sweden and Korea. I am not sure on the placing.

The Annual General meeting opened on the afternoon of Tuesday 27th September. The actual opening was attended by the President of Italy complete with his ceremonial guards and paparazzi.

Then first of these was a small number of scientific lectures spread over the next three days. The programme was presentations by individual institutions, election of Officers of ICSU and a small number of high level scientific lectures mostly by Nobel Prize winners of which there were at least five in attendance at the meeting.

During the course of the Conference I spoke several times particularly with reference to climate change and information contained within caves. I got the opportunity of explaining to everybody what the International Union of Speleology was all about and it seemed to create quite a lot of interest. I was very well received generally. The largest topic of conversation at the whole meeting was climate change.

I thank Arrigo Cigna for accompanying me at the beginning of the Conference and introducing me into the Italian way of doing things.

The first night there was a spectacular banquet on a hill overlooking the Vatican, we were in a large classic Italian restaurant. On the Thursday night there was another banquet near to the Coliseum in very traditional medieval Italian surroundings. There was no charge to UIS for the Congress, money coming from Membership fees and International organisations.

My overall feeling was that ICSU is definitely something we want to work more closely with. Currently we are associate members, we could possibly look at full membership but I think that may well be unreasonably expensive for us.

The Headquarters of the organisation is in Paris. I am interested in visiting them with Fadi and talking through co-operation between our scientists and scientists of the other member organisations.

Altogether a very interesting few days.



Andy EAVIS
UIS, President

Minutes of UIS Bureau Annual Meeting

April 15-16, 2011

Hotel Terasa – Jedovnice (Czech Republic)

July 14, 2011

1) Opening speech of the UIS President / Approval of Agenda

Andy Eavis thanked all participants for coming to Jedovnice and Brno (Czech Republic). He informed the Bureau that Alexander Klimchouk, Stein-Erik Lauritzen, Paul Williams, and Kyung Sik Woo have apologized for not being able to come to the Bureau Meeting. Andy Eavis thanked Zdeněk Motyčka and Pavel Bosak for hosting the Bureau meeting.

The Agenda of the meeting was then approved by the present Bureau members.

2) Approval of Minutes from Regular Sessions in 2010 (Postojna, SLOVENIA)

Andy Eavis proposed a motion to accept the minutes of the preceding meeting that was held in Postojna (Slovenia) on June 12 and 13, 2010. Fadi NADER seconded this motion and it was passed by the Bureau.

Together with the minutes, the list of decisions/actions was previously published on the UIS Bureau Forum and sent by emails to Bureau members. This list was reviewed and updated by the Bureau members.

3) Previous meetings and events

a. FEALC Congress (Matanzas, Cuba) 4 to 8 August, 2010;

Andy Eavis, George Veni, and Efrain Mercado attended this event and verbally reported the main outcomes to the UIS Bureau.

b. ISCA Congress (Slovakia) 20-24 October 2010;

Andy Eavis, Arrigo Cigna, Giovanni Badino and Pavel Bosak attended this event and verbally reported the main outcomes to the UIS Bureau.

c. First Croatian Speleo Congress (Croatia) 24-27 Nov 2010;

Christian Dodelin, Fadi Nader, Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns and Nadja Zupan Hajna attended this event and verbally reported the main outcomes to the UIS Bureau.

d. National Symposium of the Turkish Federation of Speleology (Istanbul / Turkey);

Fadi Nader attended this event and verbally reported the main outcomes to the UIS Bureau.

4) Organization updates concerning the 16th ICS – Brno 2013

a. Report of Site Visit of venues and facilities

b. News from the Organizing Committee

Mr. Zdeněk Motyčka informed the UIS Bureau about the updates concerning the organization of the upcoming 16th ICS in Brno (Czech Republic) in 2013. His verbal report included seven important steps that summarize the work that has been done since the previous UIS Bureau meeting in Postojna (June, 2010) and projects the future perspectives.

A discussion took place about inviting the FSE to plan their General Assembly and Bureau meeting for the year 2013 at the venue of the 16th ICS in Brno. The UIS Bureau members and the 16th ICS organizers found that this idea is adequate and should be encouraged.

DECISION 1: The Bureau offers facilities for the FSE to run its General Assembly and Bureau meeting at Brno in 2013 during the 16th ICS.

ACTION 1: Fadi Nader (upon the approval of Andy Eavis) will send a letter to FSE to invite them to plan their General Assembly and Bureau meeting for the year 2013 at the 16th ICS in Brno (Czech Republic).

5) Location of the UIS Bureau 2012 meeting (IRAN)

Possible venues:

- Euro SpeleoForum (2012): date not known; no invitation or support
- Iranian Cavers and Speleologists Association meeting (2012): date not known, general invitation, probably some support with facilities
- 4th Argentine Speleological Congress, Mendoza, Argentina (1-8 April 2012): invitation, probably some support with facilities
- Artificial Caves Commission, Torino, Italy (May 2012): written invitation, probably some support with facilities
- Pseudokarst Commission, Galicia, Spain (10-15 September 2012): invitation, no support
- International Workshop on Ice in Caves, Italy, (September 2012): no invitation or support
- Hidden Earth (22-23 or 29-30 September 2012): possible invitation and support
- Volcanic Caves Commission, Amman, Jordan (15-22 March 2012): invitation, no support

DECISION 2: The upcoming annual UIS Bureau meeting will take place in Iran between 14 and 24 April 2012. The Bureau will contribute to a symposium at the University of Shiraz and part of it will visit the salt karst in southern Iran together with Iranian cavers to evaluate that area for World Heritage designation. If this plan fails then the Bureau meeting will be in Jordan combined with the upcoming Symposium of the Volcanic Caves Commission.

ACTION 27: Fadi will send a letter to the Iranian Cavers asking about the possibility to have meeting and scientific program in Shiraz around March 2012 and determine if support is available in Iran for a World Heritage evaluation of the salt karst area.

6) UIS/UNESCO (F. Nader)

Fadi Nader informed the Bureau that the UIS has become an Associate Member of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and that two representatives of the UIS should participate at the ICSU General Assembly in September 2011 in Rome. A fee of 500 Euro should be paid annually to ICSU.

ACTION 2: Fadi Nader will contact Arrigo Cigna to ask him about possibly representing UIS at ICSU GA in Rome 24 September - 1 October, 2011 (Nadja will see as well if she can attend, and Andy can come on the 29th September).

ACTION 3: Fadi Nader will prepare a payment order of 500 Euro to ICSU and send it to Nadja (with invoice attached).

7) UIS Code of Ethics (Stein-Erik Lauritzen)

ACTION 4: Publish the current draft of Code of Ethics completed by S.E. Lauritzen on UIS website as a working document and ask delegates to review before upcoming UIS Bureau Meeting in 2012.

8) Commission Reports

George Veni, VP-Administration, reported on the activities of the Departments, Commissions, and Working Groups:

a. Archaeology and Paleontology

No reports or communications.

b. Arts and Letters

They are working on the contest for the UIS Anthem and hope to have some for the Bureau to review and select from next year.

c. Artificial Cavities

The committee has reorganized with Mario Parise as President and members from six countries. They are organizing the *International Workshop on Speleology in Artificial Cavities* for May 2012 in Torino, Italy.

d. Atlas of Karst Regions

No reports or communications.

e. Bibliography

New BBS was recently produced but is still one year behind schedule. Greg Middleton and Patrick Deriaz began discussing adding the BBS information into the Karst Information Portal, but this has apparently been delayed until Patrick catches up with BBS.

f. Biology

Last year, Peter Matthews started discussing with the commission the adding of biological systematics into the Infomatics database. No information has since been reported on progress.

g. Cave Diving

No reports or communications.

h. Cave Mineralogy

Organized a cave mineralogy session of the *International Mineralogical Association Convention* in August 2010, and Bogdan Onac and Paolo Forti are preparing a special issue on cave minerals for the *Int. Journal of Speleology*.

i. Cave Rescue

Christian Dodelin has organized successful cave rescue workshops in France, Mexico and Turkey in 2010, and the commission is working with cave rescue conferences in April and May 2012 in Hungary and Bulgaria.

j. Cavers' Dictionary

No reports or communications since Farsi was added in late 2009.

k. Department of Education

There was a report in July 2010 on a conference in Tunisia.

l. Department of Cave and Karst Protection

The Department has developed Management Guidelines for Show Caves, and continues to provide regular news and information.

m. Glacier, Firn, and Ice Caves

The 5th International Workshop on Ice in Caves is planned for September 2012 in northern Italy. Details have not yet been released.

n. History of Speleology

Commission President Karl Mais has been ill and not responding to messages. Hubert Trimmell offered to serve as the contact for the commission until Mais is in good health.

o. Hydrothermal Karst

Alexander Klimchouk reports that he and Yuri Dublyansky will likely dissolve this working group and include it within a Hypogenic Karst Working Group under the Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis Commission.

p. Informatics

See Biology Commission.

q. ISCA

David Summers reported some difficulties and differences of opinion on the UIS Management Guidelines for Show Caves. Pavel Bosak and Hubert Trimmel were at the ISCA Congress where the differences were discussed, and can provide more information.

r. Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis

Alexander Klimchouk reports the commission has revised and reorganized the online journal, *Speleogenesis and Evolution of Karst Aquifers*. Also, the commission is co-sponsoring the *International Conference on Karst Hydrogeology and Ecosystems* in Kentucky in June 2011.

s. Longest and Deepest Caves

No activity. The President (Aitana Tamayo) does not respond to e-mails and the Vice President (Pat Kambesis) does not feel comfortable directing the commission without the President's knowledge or approval.

t. Microbiology and Geomicrobiology

The commission created microbiological decontamination protocols for the UIS.

u. Paleokarst and Speleochronology

No reports or communication. George Veni was having trouble reaching Stein-Erik Lauritzen by e-mail, but the problem is now fixed and he will contact Stein-Erik again soon for a report.

v. Physical Chemistry and Hydrogeology

No activity reported.

w. Pseudokarst

The commission held a successful conference in 2010 and is planning another conference in September 2012 in Galicia, Spain.

x. Speleotherapy

No news reported since organizing a conference in 2009.

y. Techniques and Materials Development

Christian Dodelin and George Veni asked Bernard Tourte and Mark Passerby to reorganize the commission, but they did not have time. Dodelin and Veni will search for others to organize the commission.

ACTION 5: Both VPs (George Veni and Christian Dodelin) will try to find a solution for this commission which will be called ("Advances in Caving Techniques).

z. Volcanic Caves

The commission held a successful conference in 2010 in Australia and is planning another conference in March 2012 in Amman, Jordan.

ACTION 6: Add a mention on the UIS website that informs about the status of the commission or working group. This could be "last updated XX/XX/XXXX" If the commission is not active, also add a statement inviting cavers interested in reviving it to contact the VP-Admin.

UIS-Bulletin vol. 54, Nr 1 & 2 (2011)

9) Delegates and National Bodies Reports

Christian Dodelin, VP-Operations, reported on the news from delegates and national bodies. He highlighted also the demands of delegates and national bodies that the information and details about them should be up to date on the UIS Website (see below).

ACTION 19: Fadi Nader will provide an updated list of national delegates and organization with their details.

10) News from Regional Federations

DECISION 6: Representatives of the regional bodies are considered non-voting invited guests at the UIS Bureau meetings.

11) UIS Website and Forum

ACTION 7: The UIS Bureau agrees on a maximum budget of 2,000 Euros to professionally update the UIS website.

ACTION 8: VP-Operations (Christian Dodelin) will contact Peter Matthews and mention Pavel Bosak's contact and budget for upgrading UIS website.

DECISION 3: UIS Bureau members will use the FORUM for all intra-bureau correspondence between meetings and ICSs.

ACTION 24: Provide space on UIS website for EXPEDITION ADVISORY SERVICE (link with European Federation Project for international expedition c/o Manuel Freire).

12) Finance Update

Nadja Zupan Hajna reported the Financial Update of the UIS as follows:

1. Incomes in 2010

Income from received fees	879,17 €
Financial incomes from business claims	23,47 €
Financial income from interest	102,16€
Financial income from exchange rate differences	3.231,93 €
<i>SUM</i>	<i>4236,73 €</i>

2. Expenses in 2010

Costs of accounting services	267,60 €
Costs of payment transactions	90,90 €
Donations to other legal entities	1000,00 €
Material costs	44,00 €
<i>SUM</i>	<i>1402,50 €</i>

INCOME SURPLUS: 2834,23 €

3. UIS in 2010 shows a surplus income of 2834.23 € that were transferred to unallocated surplus of total income of 50,240.69 €

4. On the day of 31. 12. 2010 the UIS had the following assets:

- Cash in EUR: **5785.75**
- Cash in U.S. dollars: **34,236.51 (25,622.29 €)**
- Short-term foreign currency deposit in U.S. dollars: **25000.00 (18709.78 €)**
- Short-term interest: **122.87 €**
- SUM: 50,240.69 €**

5. On the day of 31. 12. 2010 Society had no liabilities; claims for interest on deposits are 122.87 €
Postojna, March 24, 2011

DECISION 4: Recommend for the upcoming General Assembly (Brno, 2013) a list of active member countries (dropping those countries that did not pay their fees for the last three consecutive years).

ACTION 20: Contact member countries and ask for debts before the upcoming ICS in Brno.

ACTION 21: Block more money at the bank in order to increase interest (10,000 USD over the 25,000 USD) as of 15 February 2012.

13) International Journal of Speleology

ACTION 9: Andy Eavis signed the contract with the University of South Florida (USF) concerning the electronic publishing of the IJS.

ACTION 10: VP-Operations (Christian Dodelin) will contact Joe de Waele and ask him about nominating a replacement person if he is still planning to retire as Editor of IJS in Brno in 2013.

ACTION 26: Andy will send a letter thanking the University of South Florida for printing and distribution of the IJS for two years.

14) Running Projects

a. UIS Book (J.-A. Labegalini)

J.-A. Labegalini sent no new report. As of the 2010 Bureau meeting he estimated the following schedule:

- 2011: Text finished before the 2011 Bureau meeting
- 2012: Editing, Review and Design
- 2013: Printing (before the upcoming 16th ICS, Brno – Czech Republic)

J.-P. Bartholeyns will remind him about the book in Brazil (July 2011).

ACTION 11: J.-A. Labegalini will prepare the draft text of the UIS Book for the next UIS Bureau meeting in 2012.

15) New Member-countries (existing and/or prospective):

ACTION 12: Fadi Nader will write a letter to Hymer to ask if his organization can consider itself representative of Malaysia. Fadi Nader will also highlight the job description of national delegates, who is qualified to represent all cavers of his/her country (per the UIS Statutes).

ACTION 13: Fadi Nader will write a letter to ask if the speleological organization in Honduras can consider itself representative of Honduras and assume the job description of national delegates, who is qualified to represent all cavers of his/her country (per the UIS Statutes).

16) Proposed projects/ideas:

a. International Expeditions – UIS/FSE

DECISION 5: Giovanni Badino will take charge of the task to develop special UIS expeditions and/or projects.

b. Speleo-Competitions (International) – Juan Carlos Lopez Casas

ACTION 14: Andy Eavis will write a paper with the cons and pros of speleological competitions that will serve as a serious/clear proposal to be voted on by next UIS Bureau (2012).

c. Others

Book on Ice Caves (needing financial support)

17) Future meetings and events:

- 50th Anniversary of Cave Rescue Organization, Budapest, Hungary, (29-30 April 2011)
- 12th Cave Rescue Conference in Bulgaria (8 to 15 May 2011)
- Granite caves (Sweden, 1 to 8 June 2011)
- 3rd International Conference on Karst Hydrogeology and Ecosystems (Kentucky, 8-10 June 2011) 4 days fieldtrip pre-conference
- 19th Karst School (Slovenia) /Karst Underground Protection (20-25 June 2011)
- Climate Change: the Karst Record 6 (27-29 June 2011?) speleothems /Birmingham, UK – pre- and post-conference fieldtrips
- 31st Brazilian Congress (July 2011)
- U.S. National Speleological Society Convention, Glenwood Springs, Colorado, USA (18-22 July 2011)
- Balkan Federation Speleo Camp
- 1st Central American Karst Congress, Coban, Guatemala (10-14 August 2011)

- k. MESS 3 (23-25 September 2011)
- l. Hidden Earth (23-25 September 2011)
- m. Euro SpeleoForum (23-25 September 2011)
- n. VMR Belgium (September-October 2011)
- o. National Cave and Karst Management Symposium, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA (3-7 October 2011)
- p. Euro SpeleoForum (2012)
- q. Iranian Cavers and Speleologists Association meeting (2012)
- r. Volcanic Caves Commission, Amman, Jordan (15-22 March 2012)
- s. Artificial Caves Commission, Torino, Italy (May 2012)
- t. Pseudokarst Commission, Galicia, Spain (10-15 September 2012)
- u. International Workshop on Ice in Caves, Italy, (September 2012)
- v. Hidden Earth (22-23 or 29-30 September 2012)
- w. others

18) Conservation Issues:

a. Progress by FSE

b. Far-East

ACTION 15: Paul Williams, in consultation with Kyung Sik Woo, will refine the letters to China and Philippines and then send them to Fadi Nader who will officially send them to the authorities.

ACTION 16: Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns will review the documents concerning the conservation of karst sites in Thailand and will decide what to do.

c. Middle East

ACTION 17: Fadi Nader will contact A. Klimchouk to review the Iisu Project (Turkey).

d. Americas

ACTION 18: Efrain Mercado will take the message to the Mexican cavers that the UIS Bureau is very concerned about the cave pollution in the Yucatan Peninsula and Efrain will report back to UIS Bureau.

19) Other Business

a. New Article for Internal Regulations: Karst Information Portal

ACTION 23: Pavel Bosak will look into Article 17 with the Advisory Committee.

ACTION 25: Bureau accepts to add Article 25 to regulations. The Regulations will need to be updated and published.

b. Which organizations are affiliated with UIS? What is the fee?

c. Request for Affiliation: National Cave and Karst Research Institute

DECISION 7: Decision by unanimous vote to accept NCKRI as an affiliated member to UIS with payment of Category A (300 Euro) annually.

d. FEALC

ACTION 22: Andy will write a support letter to FEALC.

e. ISCA

ACTION 28: President Andy Eavis will contact ISCA and resume UIS' relationship with them.

20) Closing Meeting and Setting the Action List of 2012

Andy Eavis closed the UIS Bureau meeting for the year 2011 and thanked everybody for their presence and contribution.

ACTION 29: Fadi Nader will prepare the minutes of the meetings and the Action List for 2012.

Fadi NADER
UIS, Secretary General

19th International Karstological School: Protection du Karst Souterrain (Postojna, SLOVENIA) 20 – 25 June, 2011

19th International Karstological School

Pictogrammes à l'attention des visiteurs à l'entrée de Postojnska Jama – Photo : J-P Bartholeyns

La 19th International Karstological School «Classical Karst» s'est tenue du 20 au 25 juin 2011 à Postojna (Slovénie) à l'initiative du *Karst Research Institute ZRC SAZU* sous les auspices et/ou le soutien de l'Union Européenne, du Gouvernement Office for local Self-government and Regional policy, de l'Agence Slovène de Recherches, de l'UNESCO, de la Commune de Postojna, de Postojnska jama, du Parc de Skocjanske jame et de l'UIS.

L'édition 2011 de l'International Karstological School dont l'unique thème concernait la *Protection du Karst Souterrain* a réuni plus de 200 participants venus d'Allemagne, Australie, de Belgique, Bosnie, Brésil, Bulgarie, Croatie, Espagne, Etats Unis, Egypte, France, Grèce, Hongrie, Iran, Italie, Liban, Macédoine, Pays-Bas, Pologne, Roumanie, Serbie, Slovaquie, Slovénie, Suisse, Tchéquie, Russie. C'est déjà dire son intérêt.

Cette réunion était partagée entre des exposés variés et intéressants répartis en trois sections (protection des grottes, protection de la faune et de son habitat, protection de l'eau et des aquifères) et des visites de terrain tant en surface que sous terre avec des phénomènes exceptionnels.



Une réunion intéressante à différents points de vue :

- elle a permis d'être informés sur et de comparer les différentes possibilités, astuces et statuts de protection, conservation et de sauvegarde existant dans différents pays,
- elle a défini les différents intervenants dans la gestion et la protection du karst en général : spéléologues, scientifiques, propriétaires (privé ou officiels), ministères et administrations, gérants de grottes touristiques et la



- elle a montré l'impact des spéléos eux-mêmes sur les grottes, leurs responsabilités en matière de protection et les pratiques d'exploration et de gestion respectueuses,
- elle a mis en évidence non seulement le commerce des concrétions mais aussi d'espèces rares de la faune souterraine (poissons, coléoptères),
- si des sites archéologiques sont mis à jour lors de travaux d'infrastructure (route, chemins de fer...) ou l'extension de carrière, une procédure d'étude est légalement possible dans plusieurs pays ; une étude rapide (relevés topos, photos, morphologiques...) devrait aussi l'être lors de la découverte de cavité,
- les participants se sont rendu compte que la protection nécessite de plus en plus d'investigations de terrain. Elles ont débouché sur la découverte et la détermination de nouvelles espèces faunistiques prouvant qu'il y en a encore beaucoup à découvrir. Une raison supplémentaire pour justifier une meilleure protection des biotopes souterrains.

Plusieurs intervenants ont insisté sur le rôle important voire essentiel à jouer par les spéléos, les inventeurs des grottes, dans la gestion de celles-ci et de l'environnement karstique ; sans eux elles seraient toujours dans l'ombre et inconnues.

En 2012 l'International Karstological School fêtera ses 20 ans. Vous y êtes déjà tous cordialement invités.

Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS
Secrétaire adjoint de l'UIS

CAVE DIVING COMMISSION – COMMISSION DE LA PLONGEE SOUTERRAINE

Zieme Stage UIS de Perfectionnement à la plongée souterraine

19 - 23 Septembre 2011 (Liban)

Philippe Brunet, Fred Martin, photos Antranik haddad

Du 19 au 23 septembre 2011, le Liban a accueilli le 2^{ème} stage perfectionnement à la plongée souterraine organisé par la commission plongée souterraine de l'Union Internationale de spéléologie. Le premier a eu lieu en 2009 en Ardèche (France). Ce projet a été initié lors du congrès UIS de 2005 à Kalamnos – Athènes Grèce par Tony Comaty de l'Association Libanaise d'Etudes Spéléologiques A.L.E.S.

INTRODUCTION

En 2009 à Kerrville Texas, lors de la réunion de la commission plongée souterraine UIS, les délégués ont souhaité l'organisation de stages dans plusieurs pays membres. En effet, il est constaté la difficulté de disposer d'instructeurs de plongée pour des cours gratuits (bénévolat) dans la plupart des pays.



Il a donc été décidé de proposer un stage de formation annuel. Le pays accueillant doit mettre à la disposition des stagiaires étrangers le matériel lourd non transportable par avion. Le lieu du stage doit permettre de disposer de plusieurs siphons dans une région suffisamment réduite pour limiter les déplacements journaliers. Le coût de ces stages doit rester abordable. Pour l'Europe, la FSE peut apporter une aide financière de 500 € environ sous réserve de la présence de 5 nationalités dans le stage.

Réunion de la commission plongée Kerrville 2009

Quatre pays se proposent pour accueillir un stage UIS : Grèce 2010. Portugal 2012, France 2013. Pour l'année 2011, Gadha Salem et Johnny Tawk délégués du Liban, ont confirmé l'intérêt de leur pays pour ce projet. Le stage de 2010 en Grèce n'a pu avoir lieu compte tenu des difficultés financières que rencontre le pays.
UIS-Bulletin vol. 54, Nr 1 & 2 (2011)



Tony Comaty se charge d'organiser la partie libanaise. Frédéric Martin, moniteur de plongée souterraine et président de l'Ecole Française de Plongée Souterraine manifesta rapidement son intérêt pour venir encadrer avec moi.

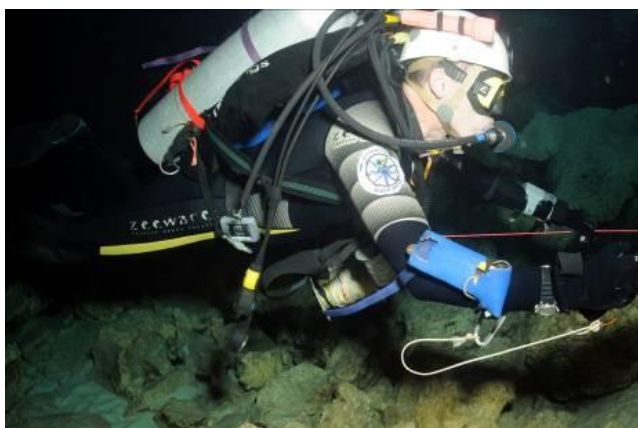
L'objectif général du stage était de perfectionner à la démarche et aux techniques de la spéléologie subaquatique. Il s'adressait à des plongeurs spéléologues ou non spéléologues parfaitement autonomes, ayant suivi un stage d'initiation à la plongée souterraine ou ayant déjà effectué au moins 5 plongées souterraines. La formation était limitée aux techniques spécifiques de plongée souterraine, le but du stage étant de sensibiliser les plongeurs:

- aux dangers inhérents à la plongée souterraine,
- aux notions de sécurité concernant les matériels et les techniques,
- aux qualités de sang froid, de réflexion et d'adaptation demandées à tous les plongeurs spéléos.

Pendant la formation, le plongeur doit être capable d'aller, en fonction de ses acquis et de ses capacités, vers son autonomie dans la pratique de la plongée spéléologique en toute sécurité. A l'issue de la formation, le plongeur doit être capable d'analyser et de connaître les limites de l'environnement particulier dans lequel il évolue, et de respecter les différentes règles inhérentes à sa sécurité en plongée souterraine.

Les **objectifs pédagogiques** étaient de :

- Connaître le milieu spéléologique noyé, au plus proche de la réalité,
- Développer son observation au regard des spécificités et des contraintes du milieu,
- Pendre conscience des limites de sécurité à ne pas enfreindre et de ses propres limites,
- Appliquer les règles de la redondance au plan de l'équipement individuel,
- Maîtriser les règles de gestion et de consommation d'air,
- Savoir utiliser des blocs relais,
- Respecter les règles de comportement et d'évolution sur fil d'Ariane,
- Equiper un siphon en respectant les règles d'équipement,
- Intégrer l'importance d'un équipement de qualité,
- Maîtriser les techniques de recherche de fil perdu et d'auto-dégagement du fil d'Ariane,
- Evoluer dans des siphons différents impliquant des configurations adaptées, avec des objectifs différents,



ARRIVEE AU LIBAN

Le stage a regroupé 4 stagiaires et 2 cadres sur 4 jours, à Beyrouth (Liban). Nous remercions le club Octopus Team qui a assuré la mise à disposition du matériel de plongée, le gonflage des bouteilles d'air comprimé, l'hébergement des cours théorique le matin et le transport en bateau pour les plongées en grottes s'ouvrant en mer. 2 stagiaires Tony Comaty et Fady al-Hawa étaient spéléologues membres de l'ALES et 2 stagiaires Antranik Haddad et Rami Sahloul étaient membres de l'Octopus Team. Les spéléologues de l'ALES avaient réalisés des plongées souterraines en première, les plongeurs « mer » étaient instructeurs en plongée technique mer habitués au « Cavern Diving ». Un mélange très diversifié prometteur de discussions riches en échanges.

Arrivée à Beyrouth le **samedi** 17 septembre, Tony Comaty nous accueille et nous emmène directement au club de plongée afin de vérifier le matériel disponible puis la salle de cours. Après un passage rapide à notre hôtel, nous sommes invités à la soirée de mariage d'une spéléologue de l'ALES. C'est l'occasion de rencontrer dans une ambiance

chaleureuse plusieurs membres du club dont le président Joseph Tabet qui nous montre rapidement sa compétence à transformer les verres vides en verres pleins. Les plats couvrent toute la table, les danses et les tambours se succèdent. Pas question de bouder notre plaisir, nous essayons maladroitement de suivre le rythme. Le retour à l'hôtel est tardif, la nuit courte.

Dimanche 18 septembre Fady et Tony nous font visiter une partie du Liban Nord. Pour nous c'est aussi un repérage pour d'éventuelles futures explorations. La vallée de la Kadicha nous montre un magnifique synclinal, la rivière a tranché une superbe coupe géologique. La grotte de la kadicha nous montre comment l'eau est captée depuis des temps anciens. L'eau est froide ! Nous craignons pour les futures plongées. Plus haut c'est la rencontre avec les majestueux cèdres de la forêt des Cèdres.

La forêt sent bon et nous rappelle que les phéniciens ont pu développer leur marine grâce à ces arbres vivant plusieurs milliers d'années. 5000 peut être ou même plus ? N'est ce pas Tony !

Le GPS est sur le tableau de bord, nous attaquons l'ascension du mont Liban pour poursuivre notre découverte de la géologie locale. Au sommet, après 2600 m, nous découvrons un panorama étonnant : la mer, la vallée de la Beqaa, les monts de l'anti Liban. Baalbek et ses ruines romaines nous offre une découverte que nous n'imaginions pas et... permet de découvrir un petit pâté à la viande, spécialité locale. Le retour vers Beyrouth se fait par **via Zahlé** où est produit un arak fameux (Joseph nous le fera découvrir plus tard !).



Retour à l'hôtel tardif, mais ce sera la norme chaque jour. Demain le stage débute vraiment.

DEROULEMENT DU STAGE

Les stagiaires ont suivi très sérieusement des cours théoriques le matin. Les travaux pratiques et les plongées étaient organisés l'après midi. Nous avons pu visiter plus ou moins longtemps, dans une eau plus ou moins claire 3 siphons.

Lundi 19 septembre

Le stage débute par la présentation de l'expérience de chacun, ses motivations et ses envies particulières. Le premier cours est consacré au matériel spécifique de la

spéléologie subaquatique, puis au suivi et à la pose du fil d'Ariane, ainsi que son marquage.



Nous partons en début d'après midi pour la baie de Jounieh où les matériels sont préparés et vérifiés. Les bi bouteilles mer, avec un manifold seront utilisées robinet d'isolation fermé afin d'être dans les conditions habituelles en Europe.

La première plongée a lieu dans une grotte près de l'Aquamarina, un peu plus loin au large. Celle s'ouvre à 9 m et descend jusqu'à 25 m. Elle semble vaste et l'eau y est très chargée. La visibilité se dégrade très vite à cause des particules décrochées du plafond par les bulles. Les stagiaires doivent tous poser un fil, suivre le fil le masque obturé par un cache, puis déséquiper la cavité. Elie nous emmène en bateau. Expérience curieuse pour les cadres plus habitués aux marches d'approche et au transport du matériel dans une grotte. Compte tenu de la circulation des bateaux, le site n'est pas identifiée par une bouée. Antranik plonge pour repérer l'entrée et fixer un parachute. Philippe part avec Tony pour la pose de fil sur le coté droit, Frédéric et Fady sur le coté gauche. Puis ce sera Antranik avec Philippe et Rami avec Frédéric. Après environ 35 mn de plongée pour chaque stagiaire, nous devons faire quelques paliers. Dehors, 2 bateaux gonflables de l'armée nous encerclent. Ils procèdent à un entraînement et repartent à pleine vitesse vers le port, les soldats couchés sur les boudins, fusil pointé vers l'avant.

Le lieu qui nous avait été décrit comme très simple nous laisse perplexe et sa topographie semble plus complexe qu'annoncé. Nous venons déjà de dépasser le monde du « cavern diver » nos stagiaires sortent sur la voie de la réflexion.

Cette première plongée a mis en évidence :

- la difficulté à poser un fil d'Ariane,
- l'importance de placer celui-ci de façon à pouvoir le suivre confortablement avec une mauvaise visibilité,
- comment gérer ses réserves en air afin d'être en permanence en sécurité même avec une panne de l'un des équipements.
- les conséquences d'une flottabilité non parfaite sur la consommation en air et sur la turbidité de l'eau dans la cavité.

Mardi 20 septembre

La matinée commence par un retour d'expérience à froid des plongées de la veille. Cet échange très riche permet d'accélérer la formation de chacun. L'objectif est de décrire ce qui s'est passé, d'en tirer des enseignements sans à aucun moment porter de jugement de valeur. Ce sont les situations vécues qui permettent d'illustrer la partie théorique.



La pose du fil d'Ariane en évitant les sections pièges, la recherche du fil d'Ariane et le dégagement sur le fil en cas d'emmêlement débutent les cours.

Le départ vers le club est plus rapide que lundi car nous devons aller vers Batroun, plus loin que Byblos. Heureusement la mer semble très calme. Pendant que certains fixent un manomètre sur le deuxième détendeur, d'autres s'entraînent à se dégager d'un fil.

Durant le trajet, Robocop alias Tony filme la cote avec son masque caméra et prince Philippe filme le voyage avec sa mini caméra Go Pro. Après 1 h de bateau, Selaata nous attend. A Chekka un peu plus loin encore, plusieurs sources résurgent en mer dont l'une en profondeur. Lors des crues, son jaillissement atteint la surface. Un collecteur important doit se trouver là, encore un témoin de la régression messinienne qui a façonné le littoral méditerranéen. La grotte s'ouvre à faible profondeur et donne accès à 2 salles borgnes. Au fond, l'eau douce surgit entre les rochers qui couvrent le sol, des ripples marks indiquent clairement le sens du courant.

Les stagiaires doivent aujourd'hui poser un fil d'Ariane, équilibrer leur réserve d'air, effectuer une recherche de fil masque obturé et un dégagement. Certains feront un peu de topographie. Chaque cadre part avec 2 stagiaires afin que le second puisse observer le premier lors de l'exercice et comprendre comment on peut ne pas retrouver le fil. Ceci est possible grâce aux surfaces libres présentent à proximité de tous les points de la grotte.

Rami et Antranik partent avec Philippe, Tony et Fady avec Frédéric. La rencontre de l'eau douce se matérialise vers le

milieu par un effet de trouble mais surtout par une température qui nous glace. Le passage de 25 à 16 degrés est saisissant. Fred et Antranik en shorty sont frigorifiés. Curieusement les stagiaires demandent à faire les exercices dans l'eau salée ! Bien sur nous, acquiesçons immédiatement.



Après 95 minutes de plongée, nous rejoignons le bateau. Cette petite résurgence a été parfaite dans son rôle de siphon école.

Cette deuxième plongée est l'occasion de constater qu'il est très difficile de retrouver un fil d'Ariane, même si certain ne sont pas à l'abri d'un coup de chance. Le dégagement se fait bien, mais les couteaux ne coupent pas toujours très bien. Les dérouleurs du commerce se coincent, le fil passant entre les flasques et bloquant l'ensemble. La démonstration de la nécessaire adaptation du matériel au milieu se fait ainsi que l'importance de maîtriser chaque technique.

L'après midi se finit et il est temps de rentrer, la nuit tombe rapidement. Nous dépassons Batroun avec son mur Phénicien et approchons le vieux port de Byblos, où nous pouvons admirer la citadelle et la vieille cité. Des pêcheurs sont partout. Un petit tour dans le port et nous repartons. Un peu plus loin, Elie nous montre son bateau de pêche et Antranik son premier club de plongée hébergé dans un container. Nous rentrons à la nuit tombée après avoir vu le coucher de soleil sur la mer. Celle-ci est maintenant couverte de lampes flottantes afin d'attirer les poissons.

Mercredi 21 septembre.

La théorie se fait aujourd'hui à Jounieh. Après le traditionnel tour de table sur les plongées de la veille nous abordons l'analyse des risques pouvant survenir en plongée souterraine, suivie de la présentation des règles d'autonomie et de la gestion des gaz. Les relais et leur intérêt pour l'exploration des siphons en fond de trou ou des post siphons sont présentés. Le calcul de la quantité de gaz à emporter pour la plongée du jour conclue la matinée. Aujourd'hui nous partons à qachqouch en face de jeita.



La grotte de qachqouch est accessible par un tunnel artificiel de 150 m qui collecte les eaux du siphon et les envoient vers la station de traitement de Dbayé pour servir à l'alimentation de Beyrouth. L'accès se fait par une échelle en fer de 2 m, bi bouteilles sur le dos... ou pas. Plus de 400 litres secondes filent entre nos pieds. Au bout, la salle entre l'ancien S1 et le S2 que nous allons plonger dans un bruit étourdissant, et ses traces d'un passé lointain où les hommes de l'âge de bronze moyen (1550 avant J.C) avaient trouvé refuge. Le portage est lourd mais heureusement plusieurs plongeurs du club Octopus et des spéléos d'ALES sont là pour aider. Le siphon débute par une belle vasque nettoyé par le courant. La galerie fait environ 4 m de diamètre et descend avec une pente d'environ 25 ° jusqu'à - 20 mètres avant de remonter puis de redescendre. La suite a été perdue, JJ Bolantz aboutissant à un terminus étroit avec peu de courant. Par moment, le plafond redescend et un sol sableux rétrécit le passage. Les parois sont couvertes d'argile.

Fady part en premier avec Philippe pour équiper jusqu'à - 17m. L'eau se trouble rapidement mais les prises sont plus nombreuses que prévues et sécurisent l'équipement. Le retour doit se faire selon le premier atteint, au 1/5 ème de la consommation de la réserve d'air, ou pour effectuer 20 mn de plongée ou à la profondeur prévue. Ce sera le temps et la consommation qui feront retourner. Atranik doit déséquiper un vieux fil qui part dans une partie très sale. L'impression de solitude est totale dans une eau opaque, même si Fred est au contact.

Philippe repart avec Rami pour poursuivre l'équipement. La visibilité est faible mais s'éclaircit vers les - 15 m. Le fil déjà posé permet de progresser plus vite et en remuant peu d'argile. 15 m de fil supplémentaires sont fixés jusqu'à une paroi vertical. Nous devons être au bas de ce qui ressemble à un puits remontant. Pendant que les premiers matériels sont ressortis, Tony part avec Fred vérifier le fil jusqu'à son terminus. Il se familiarise à l'usage des flèches

de direction et peaufine l'équipement qui est maintenant « béton » jusqu'à son terme.

Ces 3^{eme} plongées ont duré entre 15 et 25 mn et sont très riches d'enseignement. La nécessité d'un matériel parfaitement au point, d'une redondance de l'équipement et d'une réserve de gaz importante sont viscéralement ressenties.

Repas tous ensemble à Jounieh puis visite à la vierge d'Harissa, construite au dessus de la ville. C'est un havre de paix où la vue en pleine nuit est somptueuse. De très nombreux visiteurs, chrétiens et musulmans visitent le site. Antranik, fidèle à son métier, à l'appareil photo dans la main et nous mitraille. Retour comme d'habitude, à plus de minuit à notre hôtel.

Jeudi 22 septembre

Nous sommes toujours à Jounieh pour le cours sur l'adaptabilité et l'autonomie, la lecture du milieu et la règle des inconnues. Une présentation des prises de notes topographiques est faite. Les travaux pratiques sont consacrés au métrage des fils d'Ariane et à la préparation de bouteilles relais.



Nous restons sur Jounieh pour replonger dans la cavité du premier jour près de l'Aquamarina. L'objectif est d'effectuer la restitution des techniques vues durant le stage. Les stagiaires doivent poser un fil d'Ariane principal définitif, faire à partir du fil principal des recherches sur des galeries latérales secondaires, effectuer une topographie. Le relais doit être posé au cours de la progression dans un endroit adapté puis être repris au retour. Une recherche de fil sera faite pour certains stagiaires.

Ce matin Philippe qui souhaite sans doute tester son adaptabilité a oublié son casque, ses lumières et son ordinateur. Tony lui prête son casque, Fady gérera les paliers (les tables de plongées permettent une sécurité). Pour le deuxième tour, Tony prend le casque de Fady. Lui aussi s'adapte. L'équipement est beaucoup plus propre que celui du premier jour et l'eau se trouble moins, preuve d'un équipement beaucoup plus aquatique. Fady pose rapidement son relais en profitant d'un beau rocher. La topo se fait au retour, tranquillement pour une plongée de 50 mn à – 25 max. Rami explore le côté gauche, lui aussi a un relais et fait une topo au retour. La salle derrière la dune de sable est retrouvée et plongée jusqu'à – 22 m. Enfin, Tony utilise son relais, le pose avant de partir explorer le côté gauche de la salle mais plus bas que Rami. Descente rapide jusqu'à – 25 et topographie au retour, sans puis avec le relais. Les 55 mn de plus entraîne un palier de 45 mn pour Philippe (105 mn à – 25).

UIS-Bulletin vol. 54, Nr 1 & 2 (2011)

Ces 4^{eme} plongées sont longues et très actives. Elles permettent une restitution de l'ensemble des techniques apprises et de voir l'évolution des participants tant au niveau technique que philosophique. Ceux-ci proposent en effet de retirer le fil d'Ariane de l'entrée de la grotte afin de ne pas inciter des plongeurs mer à y pénétrer sans connaître les techniques. Cette analyse très juste nous satisfait totalement.



L'après midi se termine par le partage des ressentis en plongée puis par un bilan du stage.

Le soir c'est l'ice break party du 3^{eme} MESS et le 60^{eme} anniversaire du Speleo Club du Liban S.C.L. Nous arrivons pour les discours puis Fred et moi iront manger dans un resto de poisson dans un quartier populaire de Beyrouth où Joseph nous fait tester un fameux arak. Puis vérifier qu'il est vraiment bon, toujours bon, encore bon,....

Vendredi 23 septembre

Le stage UIS est fini mais le congrès du 3^{eme} « Middle East Speleology Sumposium » organisé par le S.G.L. MESS débute. Inscription puis conférence le matin. L'après midi Ramy nous emmène plonger une superbe épave posée sur un fond de 40 m. Alors qu'il a plu toute la matinée la mer est cristalline. Nous plongeons avec Ramy comme chef de palanquée. Il a son casque spéléo pour pénétrer dans l'épave. Ce sont nous les élèves aujourd'hui ! Cette plongée est une vraie récompense pour nous.

La soirée se fini à Amchit dans un restaurant de poisson. Le lieu est magique, nous sommes au dessus des vagues, peu après la vieille ville de Byblos, pas très loin de la grotte de Selaata. Rami, Antranik et sa femme, Tony, sont là pour cette soirée conviviale où nous retrouvons Abdo mon pote de Kerrville, avec sa femme, Badr, Ghada, Joseph et quelques autres. Nous échangeons les photos, pendant que les autres commandent. Aujourd'hui c'est repas ... libanais mais avec en plus du poisson frit. L'ambiance est aussi chaude que le temps hasardeux. Fady nous rejoint avec son

neveu, le groupe du stage est complet. La pluie arrive avec violence, plusieurs grains nous passent dessus durant la soirée. Le retour se fait vers Beyrouth sur une autoroute détrempée. Les 4 x 4 ont au moins l'avantage de permettre de rester sur la route.



BILAN DU STAGE

Le premier point qui ressort de l'évaluation finale est la prise de conscience de la spécificité de la spéléologie subaquatique. Il est nécessaire de disposer d'un matériel adapté, souvent différent de ce qui est utilisé habituellement, même lors de plongées tek. Au niveau des techniques, il semble bien que le fil d'Ariane soit l'élément primordial de l'apprentissage de la plongée souterraine, que cela soit sa pose où la conduite à tenir en cas de soucis, emmêlement, perte,... L'autonomie en air apparaît également ainsi que la pratique du relais et l'usage de bouteilles de tailles variées complètent la théorie.

La variété des siphons, sources d'expérience est bien vécue. La plongée en grotte a été une prise de conscience marquante pour les plongeurs. La possibilité de plonger avec des cadres différents est également un plus.

La satisfaction est générale, le stage a répondu aux attentes de chacun.

Concernant les cadres, un sentiment de satisfaction ne peut être caché avec l'impression d'avoir mener un groupe de stagiaires très divers, partagés entre plongeurs tech et spéléo, vers un but et une prise de conscience communs. En témoigne la vision de la grotte Aquamarina qui était présentée en début de stage comme évidente et sans danger, et qui ne devait plus à la fin de ces 4 jours très riches, ne laisser « dépasser » aucun fil. Les galeries jugées à présent et à juste titre trop dangereuses pour le commun des plongeurs devaient à présent être déséquipées ...

Nous sommes très content, le stage était agréable, les participants sympathiques, dynamiques et d'horizons différents. Le niveau des stagiaires était bon, le point principal était une question de principe et de philosophie, montrer la spécificité du milieu, rendre le plongeur adaptable et autonome d'une part, apporter des techniques complémentaire d'autre part. Le stage a bien fonctionné grâce à l'implication de tous et la mise à disposition des équipements de l'Octopus team.

Merci à Tony Comaty qui a tout organisé sur place, à l'ALES, à Antranik Haddad et au Team Octopus ainsi qu'à l'Office des Eaux de Beyrouth et du Mont Liban qui nous a permis d'utiliser la résurgence du siphon n° 2 de Qashqoush.

Merci pour toutes les invitations et l'accueil chaleureux reçu partout.

Nous garderons un grand souvenir de ce séjour et espérons revenir.

Philippe BRUNET
*President de la Commission plongée souterraine
de l'Union Internationale de spéléologie*

UIS KHS Commission at the Karst Hydrogeology and Ecosystems Conference in Bowling Green (USA) 8 – 10 June, 2011

International Conference on Karst Hydrogeology and Ecosystems (Karst-2011) was held at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, KY, USA in June 8-10, preceded by the field trip along the western edge of the Cumberland Plateau Escarpment in Kentucky and Tennessee in June 4-7.

The Conference was hosted by the Hoffman Environmental Research Institute, co-organized by the National Cave and Karst Research Institute (NCKRI), and the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH). Attended by around 90 karst scholars from 16 nations, the conference was a great success, with its rich scientific program (44 papers presented in 6 sessions) and international karst cooperation agenda. The latter included business meetings of the three major karst/related organizations: *IAH Karst Commission*, *UIS Commission on Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis*, the newly approved UNESCO/IUGS *IGCP Project 598 "Environmental Change and Sustainability in Karst Systems: Relations to Climate Change and Anthropogenic Activities,"* and International Karst Cooperation Panel Discussion.

The UIS KHS Commission meeting on June 8 was attended by ca. 30 colleagues, including those representing the partner organizations. The following items were discussed:

1) Recent developments with the Speleogenesis website (<http://www.speleogenesis.info/>).

The journal "Speleogenesis and Evolution of Karst Aquifers" is back on track after being in the dormant mode during the last four years.

- New journal concept: merging the journal with the online bibliography database (KarstBase); one-stop place for current titles/publications in the field;
- Two new issues (10, 2011, January-June, and 11, 2011, July-December);
- New journal (website) design, new technical platform, easy and quick management and publishing.
- "Featured Articles" – an effective way to highlight selected current publications from karst/cave journals and other geoscience journals, pertinent to the field of speleogenesis and karst hydrogeology. The highlighting format includes titles, abstracts and links to original publications).

The Speleogenesis main page (Portal) has been redesigned.

E-Books section has been established (the collection of open-access monographs and proceedings).

During the meeting, planning further efforts on the website were discussed, most of which are already realized by the time of this publication (see article "Important developments with the Speleogenesis website" in this issue).

Everyone agreed that the Speleogenesis website is an indispensable tool for maintaining the KHS Commission activity and, more generally, for promoting international karst cooperation. It was suggested that other partner karst organizations would make more extensive use of the functionality of this site (particularly its registration/researchers' directory system, bibliography services, etc.) for their own activities. Furthermore, it was agreed by Dr. Nico Goldscheider and Dr. Neven Kresic (IAH Karst Commissions co-presidents) that the Speleogenesis website will soon be jointly operated by the UIS KHS Commission and IAH Karst Commissions.

2) Merging of the UIS Working Group on Hydrothermal Karst with the UIS Commission on Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis

Hydrothermal karst is now recognized to be a variant of a broader speleogenetic family of hypogene karst, so that it ought to be approached from this common genetic ground. It has been therefore suggested (by Dr. Yu. Dublyansky and Dr. A. Klimchouk) that the UIS Working Group on Hydrothermal Karst merges with the UIS Commission on Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis.

Further efforts to foster studies on hydrothermal karst will be continued within the recently launched HypoKarst Project of the KHS Commission. (visit <http://www.speleogenesis.info/directory/projects/hypogene/> for details).

3) HypoKarst Project ("Hypogene Karst & Speleogenesis: Nature, Processes, Mechanisms, Manifestations and Applications").

The HypoKarst Project was recently launched by the Commission with the goal to advance our understanding of solution conduit and void development in those parts of the sedimentary cover that lie below the domain of shallow unconfined groundwater flow systems.

The main project objectives are as follows:

- Identify and develop common international science subject areas to ensure that important scientific questions in studying hypogene karst are addressed in a coherent manner; to promote researches in the identified areas.
- Facilitate and strengthen international scientific cooperation in hypogene karst studies; promote interaction between karst researchers and other geoscience scholars and industry specialists in hypogene karst studies and applications.
- Channel and disseminate information and research outcomes relevant to hypogene karst.

The project coordinators are Dr. Yu. Dublyansky (Innsbruck Univ. Austria) and Dr. Alexander Klimchouk (UISK, Ukraine). The third coordinator is to be assigned soon.

More details about the HypoKarst project can be found at <http://www.speleogenesis.info/directory/projects/hypogene/>.

Lists of interested researchers and groups on the above mentioned page is growing, following the feedback received after the initial announcement.

Various functionalities will be added soon to the HypoKarst page, including registration with the project, hypokarst bibliography search, project forum and news, etc.

4) Future meetings

There was a discussion of possible future meetings under the KHS Commission auspices, both thematic and general.

Regarding thematic meetings, there is a desire to continue the line of hypogene karst events, established by the 2008 GSA Convention Session in Houston (sponsored by NCKRI) and 2009 Conference in Ukraine (co-organized by UISK and NCKRI). Future meetings of this series are seen as small-to-medium size symposia, focused on specific aspects of HypoKarst studies and merged with field trips that could highlight particular examples and faces of hypogene karst.

The following possible places and time slots are on the tentative list for HypoKarst symposia (information below is updated since the June meeting and particular events on this list are subject to specific confirmation):

- Bahamas (KWI; Dr. John Mylroie): Hypogene Cave Morphology, 2014 February;
- Budapest, Hungary (Prof. Judit Mádl-Szőnyi): General HypoKarst topics with a focus on regional groundwater flow systems aspects, possibly in 2013;

- Crimea, Ukraine (UISK-NCKRI): General HypoKarst topics. Timing still to be determined;
- Carlsbad, NM, USA (NCKRI): General HypoKarst topics. Timing still to be determined;

Among more general events, the KHS Commission is to sponsor the general symposium on Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis at the 16th International Speleological Congress, Czech Republic, July 2013.

Any ideas, comments and suggestions regarding these and other possible meetings are welcome. The UIS KHS Commission is open for suggestions to co-sponsor any other scientific meetings on karst evolution, hydrogeology, geomorphology and speleogenesis.

5) Support for the Speleogenesis website

The Speleogenesis website is rapidly growing in its size, complexity, and significance for the entire karst community. To secure its sustainable and dynamic development in the future, we need to find means to compensate, at least in part, for the work of the webmaster (Alexey Kopchinskiy from Vienna), and cover the hosting and provider service costs. The amount of ca. \$2500-\$3000 a year would solve the problem. The IAH Karst Commission (Dr. Nico Goldscheider and Dr. Neven Kresic) suggested that their Commission would try help in finding sponsors for this particular issue.

Also, the KHS Commission should seek sponsors and activate fundraising efforts to support its projects and events. Any ideas and suggestions regarding this issue would be much appreciated.

The UIS KHS Commission representatives took part in the business meetings of other partner organizations and in the International Karst Cooperation Panel Discussion convened during the Conference. We are happy to see the growing collaboration of our Commission with the IAH Karst Commission and the UNESCO/IUGS IGCP Project 598, and we are looking forward to work on implementation of all discussed plans and ideas.

The UIS KHS Commission congratulates Dr. Chris Groves and his excellent team at the Hoffman Environmental Research Institute with the success of the Karst-2011 Conference and thanks to them for their perfect organization and hospitality.

Alexander KLIMCHOUK

UIS KHS Commission President/ UIS Adjunct Secretary

UIS KHS COMMISSION NEW PROJECT

Hypogene Karst & Speleogenesis: Nature, Processes, Mechanisms, Manifestations and Applications (HypoKarst)

The HypoKarst project is an informal international effort to coordinate and promote hypogene karst and speleogenesis research. The main objective is to advance our understanding of solution conduit and void development in those parts of the sedimentary cover that lie below the domain of shallow unconfined groundwater flow systems. This is important in order to better apprehend karst evolution, and improve the general karst paradigm and its applicability and effectiveness for solving related practical problems.

Initiated in 2007, HypoKarst has been shaped recently as a coherent project proposal to be one of core projects of the UIS Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis Commission. Also, the HypoKarst Project succeeds the UIS Working Group on Hydrothermal Karst, which is suggested recently to merge with the KHS Commission.

Through cooperation of interested researchers and use of collaborative platform and tools of the Speleogenesis Network, HypoKarst will assist in more efficient implementation of existing funded projects, generate new research initiatives, and seek for additional funding to promote studies in HypoKarst Subject Areas.

The main HypoKarst objective is to advance our understanding of solution conduit and void development in those parts of the sedimentary cover that lie below the domain of shallow unconfined groundwater flow systems. Other objectives include:

- Identify and develop common international science subject areas to ensure that important scientific questions in studying hypogene karst are addressed in a coherent manner; to promote researches in the identified areas.
- Develop and strengthen international scientific cooperation in hypogene karst studies.
- Promote an interaction between karst researchers and other geoscience scholars and industry specialists in hypogene karst studies and applications.
- Channel and disseminate information and research outcomes relevant to hypogene karst.

To read more about activities and plans under the HypoKarst Project, please visit:

<http://www.speleogenesis.info/directory/projects/hypogene/>

Alexander KLIMCHOUK & Yury DUBLYANSKY
the Project Coordinators, UIS KHS Commission

UIS KHS COMMISSION

Important Developments with Speleogenesis Website

Important new developments have been made recently with the Speleogenesis website, which greatly improve its functionality and enhances services provided for website members.

The update of the website has primarily concentrated on basic functionality of the templating engine and overall design. The site is now more stable and more secure. Much work has been done to make sure that in the future it will be easy to add new functionalities and provide better services to members of the Speleogenesis community.

Of many features and utilities that are at work, a few important ones are already available. The most important one is a new Member Area. All existing Speleogenesis members have full access to the new environment, so no new registration is needed. Just log in with your Speleogenesis credentials and start exploring the new Member Area.

Improved member profile

It is now very easy to update your member profile. With a few mouse clicks you can change your password, update your email address, upload an avatar, and edit personal data like affiliation and professional interests. Depending on your visibility choices, certain items of this information will become available on your Public Page.

Public page

Public page is a new feature. It may serve like your personal professional internet page. Besides your personal details, you can add a custom text of an unlimited size (hint: you may use it as your curriculum vitae). Also you can create and make public your list of publications. These all will be visible on your Speleogenesis Public Page. I would kindly encourage you to make your Public Page as informative as possible. It is important and beneficial to all members of the community that individual professional profiles of hundreds of karst and cave scholars would be available from a single system, the Directory of Researchers. The Directory currently lists 586 researchers.

New Karstbase

Another major development is KarstBase. This online cave and karst science bibliography database has been available for beta-testing during several years, although its interface and submission options were rather premature. Nevertheless, KarstBase has managed to grow dramatically and now covers almost 10.300 titles. Now we present the greatly improved KarstBase.

KarstBase is integrated with the Speleogenesis Journal and its Featured Articles section, and fully covers 16 major journals in the field (World Cave & Karst Science Journals) among other sources. Any registered member can easily submit bibliography items into the system using simple and convenient form available from Member Area. Now you can make Karstbase growing faster. It would be a great idea to make sure that your own relevant publications on karst and geospeleology are all included! You can also add an e-book or thesis which will be displayed in respective sections of the site.

These are some of the new developments. More features are on their way (listed at the bottom of the Member Area page).

I invite you to explore the new face of the Speleogenesis website and new options available there. Please, also encourage other karst and cave scholars, who may not have joined the Speleogenesis Network yet, to register with the site and contribute to the development of our important professional resources.

Last, but not least, I'd like to emphasize on the great role of the website master, Alexey Koptchinsky from Austria, whose deep devotion, hard work and outstanding expertise in web design has made all these developments possible. On behalf of the Speleogenesis community, I sincerely thank him. I also thank the staff of the Ukrainian Institute of Speleology and Karstology (UISK) who contributed lots of efforts into putting together various data sets used for the Speleogenesis developments.

Alexander KLIMCHOUK
UIS KHS Commission President/ UIS Adjunct Secretary

3rd MIDDLE EAST SPELEOLOGY SYMPOSIUM (MESS 3) (USEK - Kaslik, LIBAN) 23 – 25 Septembre, 2011

Le MESS3 s'est tenu du 23 au 25 septembre 2011 à la Holy Spirit University de Kaslik non loin de Beirut au Liban avec le soutien du Conseil National pour la Recherche Scientifique.

La croyance populaire libanaise dit que «le troisième est le bon». On peut donc affirmer dès maintenant, sans aucun doute, que cet événement sera récurrent d'autant que d'entrée de jeu, les organisateurs ont, en conclusion des mots d'accueil déjà donné rendez-vous à l'assemblée en 2016.

Malgré plusieurs autres manifestations importantes en Europe dont les Hidden Hearth (GB) et Speleomedia (ES), le MESS3 a rassemblé quelques 60 participants dont vingt quatre étrangers venus d'Allemagne, de Belgique, Croatie, France, Iran, Japon, Oman, Suisse, Slovénie, Turquie et Ukraine soit un tiers des participants ce qui prouve l'intérêt de la manifestation et confirme les excellents contacts et rapports entretenus par le Spéléo Club du Liban avec la communauté spéléologique mondiale.

Ce 3e Symposium est un événement particulier puisqu'il coïncide avec le 60e anniversaire du Spéléo-Club du Liban dont l'histoire a commencé en 1951 avec L. Gorra, A. Anavy, R. Khawam et S. Karkabi. Qui sont entre autres les découvreurs de la splendide grotte de Jeita.



Les sujets abordés par les orateurs de divers horizons ont traité de bien des domaines de la spéléologie tant nationale qu'internationale. Outre les sujets scientifiques et les résultat d'exploration, une place importante a néanmoins été réservée à la protection du karst en général (aménagement du territoire et pollution) puisqu'un intéressant débat a réuni, pour la première fois, les gestionnaires de grotte, les spéléologues, les responsables de la protection tant au niveau ministériel que spéléo.

Ayant permis à chacun de s'exprimer, il a captivé l'assemblée qui a pu se rendre compte de l'importance, en matière de protection, d'une gestion coordonnée et raisonnée à tous les niveaux de décision.

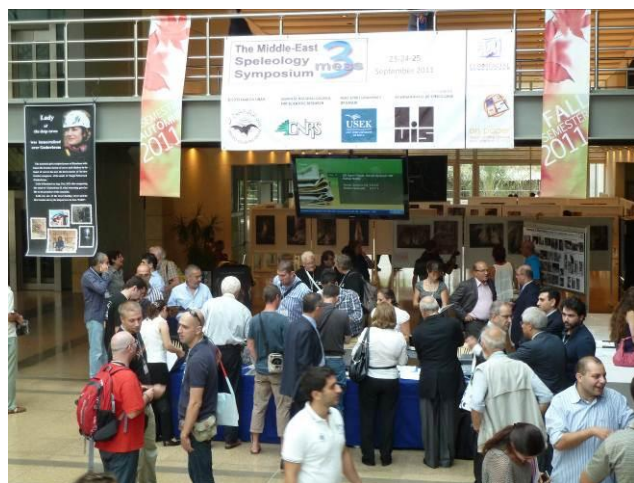
MESS3 fut aussi le moment idéal pour présenter trois nouveaux livres. De magnifiques documents photographiques ont comme à l'habitude égayé les soirées.

Pour permettre aux visiteurs étrangers de mieux connaître leur pays, les organisateurs avaient mis au programme, la visite des principaux sites touristiques historiques et culturels, la visite de grottes sauvages et touristiques.



Même si l'excursion programmée en Syrie a dû, à regret, être annulée, l'organisation du MESS3 a été comme pour les précédentes éditions une totale réussite.

Pour terminer, il faut souligner le dynamisme et l'incomparable hospitalité des membres du Spéléo Club du Liban qui se transmet de génération en génération.



Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS
Secrétaire adjoint de l'UIS

PARAGUAY: a Law for Cave and Karst Protection

Efraín Mercado, UIS Adjunct Secretary (Puerto Rico)

President of Federación Espeleológica de América Latina y del Caribe (FEALC)

For more than five years cavers and local NGO's from Paraguay have worked together to convince the government of the need of having regulations to protect caves and karst. As recent as in January 2012 the Paraguayan Congress adopt a project from FEPAE (Federación Paraguaya de Espeleología) a FEALC¹/UIS member and Fundación Cavernas de Paraguay and accept it doing a step forward to create the first cave and karst protecting law of the country.

The president of the Republic of Paraguay, Fernando Lugo, stamps his signature to approve Law 4577/12. With this law several caves from San Lázaro (Vallemí), Department of Concepción, Paraguay, became protected. Initially, caves Kamba Hopo, 14 de julio, la Santa Caverna, Tres Cerros, Morado, Ykua Pa'i and Santa Elena caves and surroundings are subjected to immediate protection. This last one is privately owned. The rest lay in government land managed by the Industria Nacional de Cemento (INC).

San Lázaro is located 660 Km. away from Asunción, the capital of Paraguay. It lays just in the confluence of Apa and Paraguay River, in the border of Brazil (Paraná). To reach the place was necessary to travel 18 hours by bus, the last 180 Km. on dirt roads (non-paved). The gap to visit the area is very narrow due to rainy season by that time. The possibility to reach the area by car is very low because the road is subjected to flooding. MERCOSUR² and local government are working on a huge project to bring paved road in the next three years. Meanwhile area could be reached by private plane (no commercial flights available) or by river.

FEALC has proved to be an important partner in the decision of getting the approval of the project.

Two expeditions from FEALC were arranged with very positive results for the region and the caving groups in Paraguay. The last one in July-August 2011 certainly gets the push needed for this approval. Congress representatives, senators, the Minister of Environment and local authorities get together with cavers, local scientist, students, NGO's and members from FEALC countries in Vallemí, discuss the need of protection, take part of the field tours and see firsthand the exuberance of the area. They really understand why the cavers were asking for protection.

The place where the caves are has been subjected to local artisan calcite mining for a long period of time. A day of hard working just brings back not more than five dollars to a poor family. It was especially important to deal with

An area to do this artisan mining was identified (Cerro Tigre) by government officials from SEAM³ (Secretaría de Ambiente) and eventually it is expected that families that depend upon this type of mining get relocated until a program is developed for retraining them on new skills not related to mining. Cerro Tigre is located in an area that does not harm the caves.

It is really worth full the hard work done by locals, especially Prof. Griselda Masó from FEPAE and Mrs. Estela Allende from Fundación Cavernas de Paraguay: conozco y protejo. This two extraordinary woman encompass a truly amazing effort to make this project a reality for the Paraguayan citizens. Their hands guided a new generation of cavers, scientist, adventure guides and general citizens to understand and love the great resources they have.

Another important fact was the involvement of local authorities and central government officials in order to understand why the caves and karst zone need to be protected. It was really spectacular seeing not one but three airplanes landing on a runway that rarely is used. Reporters, representatives, directors, the minister of the SEAM, Mr. Oscar Rivas and a whole staff avid to learn and to understand accompanied the explorers, scientists and students in this event. They share their experience, their political will and compromise to get this project done. They really are the ones that finally could make the right decision to jump and finally put their wills into a law.

Local and national news coverage was decisive in the process of getting the people to understand the importance of having some source of legal protection to sensitive areas like this one. San Lázaro (Vallemí) really needs this help. There is a big tourism industry that well managed could provide locals means of development and progress. In other words is like taking the bull by the horns. Financial development of the community should be managed wisely and is a fundamental aspect that can centralize the social fulfillment on specific needs.

The protection comes with education programs, development of local guides that expands the knowledge and raises the love for the natural resources like caves. It means more jobs, more investments (means of transportation, safety, and allotment for resources like restaurants, accommodations and goods that will benefit end users and the community). This also means that people who live from artisan mining could have a new chance to get a better and affordable life.

The fact that Paraguay have its first cave and karst protection law gives the cavers a long-lasting reason to keep on

¹ <http://www.fealc.org/>

² <http://www.mercosur.int/>

³ <http://www.seam.gov.py/>

new expeditions, explorations, research, thus sharing this information with colleagues and neighbors that should form the cornerstone to new and better laws that helps in the protection of new discoveries and the understanding of the speleology like never.

Having protecting caves means easing the way for research for new geologist, biologist, archeologist, and anthropologist. It also means that so many other scientists and the allotment of funds to keep the research hitting the doors of universities and organizations that should bring this to a new era.

FEALC does an outstanding job by demonstrating solidarity with fellow cavers in Paraguay. The team of cavers coming from Honduras, Cuba, Argentina, Brazil and Puerto Rico had the chance to interact not only with local resources but to be presented to congressman, representatives, mayors, ministers and to bring fresh information on how important this project was to the nation.

From now on the Paraguayan, being cavers or not, have an excellent tool to manage their caves and their karst areas. The intrinsic force this law comes with is within their citizens: the ability to know, to teach and to kindly protect those areas that provides a natural lab for research and an excellent space for enjoy.

Paraguay is a proud member of the UIS. So does with FEALC. This means that strong ties tend to work in their best to fulfill the needs of our cavers and scientists. This experience could be used to motivate newcomers on the speleology field to develop bigger and more extensive projects and to achieve the response not only from the citizens but from the government. Certainly we should keep those ties. We should motivate cavers to develop their will to protect and to make it extensive to other countries. We should be, as stated by a good friend: be one with the cave...

Efraín MERCADO
UIS Adjunct Secretary
FEALC President

TRIBUTE TO BERNARD URBAIN (1952 - 2011) By Christian Dodelin (UIS, Vice President of Operations)

Bernard Urbain was born on November 25, 1952 in Jemappes, and passed away July 31, 2011 in Namur (Belgium) at the age of 58.

I believe that fundamentally Bernard would not have liked this title: «tribute!» He would have said to us: "I do not need all of this".

From the age of 15 Bernard had a passion for caving and his activities led him first to the caves of Belgium. Besides, with his caving club in Belgium he participated in multiple expeditions in France (since 1969): Pierre St Martin, Loné Peyret, the Réseau Trombe, gouffre Berger etc. the list is long. He also participated in exploring the system of Piaggia Bella in Marguareis in Italy.

In 1971 he followed his non-military national service in the Disaster and Emergency Services of Belgium. It is through this opportunity that he gets acquainted to the cave rescue organization. He becomes, in 1973, a team member of the cave rescue team. The same year he met speleo-rescuers in Brussels, managed by Dimitri de Martinoff and André Slagmolen... He joins then the Namur section of cave rescue.

At that time, he invested a lot in the administrative caving, this thankless activity in the service of the whole community. He was in charge of the secretarial department of his caving Club, and administrator on the Committee of Preservation of Caves (from 1979 till 1983), and administrator on the Belgian Committee of Caving (from 1978 till 1984).

In the early 1980s, three Belgian federations (FSB, CBS and FNSA) negotiated for a long time their merge and the creation of the Union Belge de Speleologie (UBS), which becomes a reality at the end of 1984. Bernard Urbain was the first Director of the UBS (from 1989 till 2004), General Secretary (from 1989 till 1995 and from 2003 till 2004), Vice-president in 1996, and President in 1998 ...

When in 2004, he leaves the Secretariat and the Board of directors of the UBS, it is not to go away from the federal management, but to remain active with a volunteer's status. He became Administrative Director with the precarious mission to install the UBS in Namur. Bernard was also Secretary of the European Speleologist Federation from 1990 till 1992.

Since 1984, he was the technical adviser in cave rescue, at first CTA (assistant), then (National) CTN from 1996. In this time, he appreciated the trainings which were made between friends, besides the official exercises.

With Gérald Fanuel they formed an efficient team at the head of the cave rescue, *which was his little baby*. He put in it all his efforts, as much in the organization as in the operations.

Bernard kept on fighting for the values of the Belgian cave locally and internationally. His enthusiasm helped him a lot.

On the occasion of 7th international cave rescue congress that was held in Cividale (Italy, 1987) Bernard joined the executive committee of the cave rescue commission of the Union International of Speleology. During this congress, he was marked by the cave rescue exercise which took place underground with the cooperation of all the cavers. He had very precise images of the passages of the stretcher in the pits and the commitment of the Italian cavers to go at the end of the operation. In 1992 he organizes the European congress of Hélecine in Belgium.

In 2002 he organizes the 50 years anniversary of the Belgian speleologists in Sart Tilman near Liège; with his help Belgian help 14 foreign delegations could attend this event.

For him the *cave rescue is serious but it does not take itself seriously*. Thus the Belgian cave rescue shirt he put in the back, a drawing showing a stretcher held by two cavers jokers who turn back and go their separate ways.

His name is forever inscribed on the Honour Roll of a club and a federation, as Honorary Secretary General of the Namur Society of Speleology and Honorary Member of the Belgian Union of Speleology.

Beyond these titles, he will remain for those who approached him an unusual caver, active and devoted to the cause which is common to all of us. Bernard was internationally known and appreciated.

This is how we became friends, contributors to the cause of caving. We knew that the fight against the disease was uneven and all our attention and our efforts were going to support him as long as possible:

Live because you expect something from us. Live to concentrate on essential things beyond all trivia parasites of our world.

From projects to achievements we have gone a serious long way with Bernard.

The first meeting that I remember took place in the Jura (France) at the rescue at Bief Goudard in summer 1998. Bernard, then Technical Advisor of the Belgian National Cave Rescue, came with some other Belgian cavers during the search conducted in the siphon to find Freddy Sonck. From that time we met every year at the national gatherings of the French Federation of Speleology.

Bernard had a thorough knowledge of people and international structures and my first steps in this area have been guided by his advice.

From 2006 we became inseparable and in regular contacts. We were both occupied in attending and organizing international seminars, conferences, commission meetings, support for the International Union of Speleology (in Greece, Texas, Puerto Rico, etc...). Meanwhile our round-trips between Belgium and Savoy (France) became common.

When I hoped to contribute in the field of knowledge of bats with Belgian cavers, Bernard organized outings to the remarkable cavities of Belgium with the relevant scientists of the country.

When the disease impeded his physical performance, Bernard launched into the picture with underground shots of a rare definition. His contribution in this area became outstanding and brought in his view of the activities we conducted. Finally, we have used and abused his phone number *SOS computer* to find the right solutions of our computers malfunction or our ignorance in this area.

In the end, we supported each other from project to project through a few moments of life. Bernard found archives at home of Andre Slagmolen which had preceded us in the field of international cave rescue. Thus he was able to make power point in assembling a history of the International Commission of Speleology. I was hoping he presents himself at the 12th Conference of the UIS Cave Rescue Commission in Bulgaria (May 2011), but he did not have the strength to make the trip. It is with some emotion that I presented the history of the commission on his behalf.

For several months, methodically, he kept on distributing to one or the other, folders or boxes to continue caving activities. He knew he was going away, so he wanted to take this last opportunity to organize his departure. He considered himself lucky to be able to prepare for his own death. On our side, friends, family, cavers, we did everything to delay the deadline. I got from him the archive of cave rescue international, part of his collection of stickers cave (probably the most extensive in the world) on the theme of rescue. I still have in front of the cards he had printed for this purpose to extend its network. He wrote "enter into the legend ..."

More than into legend, Bernard was an major actor of caving and we were aware that he was inside in the heart of the history of caving.

Beyond the time we shared with him on all continents, on and inside the karst, taking turns sharing experiences and knowledge remains a journey and reflections on the meaning of life and that of death. Bernard had pre-arranged his departure ceremony. It was of exceptional intensity and those who attended will not forget it.

As for this damned disease has been able to say several times Goodbye, I keep still, as the landscapes and places where I am, the opportunity to tell us goodbye.

Christian Dodelin - September 22, 2011.

Thank you to his friends Belgian cavers and their contribution: Richard Grebeude, Benoit Lebeau, Gérald Fanuel, Jean Marc Mattlet.



Bernard Urbain in 1989

UIS Bureau 2009-2013

President

Andrew James EAVIS (United Kingdom)

Vice-President of Operations

Christian DODELIN (France)

Vice-President of Administration

George VENI (United States of America)

Secretary General

Fadi NADER (Lebanon)

Adjunct Secretaries

Giovanni BADINO (Italy)
Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS (Belgium)
Alexander KLIMCHOUK (Ukraine)
Stein-Erik LAURITZEN (Norway)
Efrain MERCADO (Puerto Rico)
Paul WILLIAMS (New Zealand)
Kyung Sik WOO (Korea)
Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA (Slovenia)

UIS Past-Presidents

Arrigo A. CIGNA (Italy)
Derek C. FORD (Canada)
Paolo FORTI (Italy)
Julia Mary JAMES (Australia)
Jose-Ayrton LABEGALINI (Brazil)
Adolfo ERASO ROMERO (Spain)
Hubert TRIMMEL (Austria)

UIS Honorary Members

Maurice AUDÉTAT (Switzerland)
Reno BERNASCONI (Switzerland)
Pavel BOSÁK (Czech Republic)
Arrigo A. CIGNA (Italy)
Paolo FORTI (Italy)
Julia Mary JAMES (Australia)
Vladimír PANOS (Czech Republic)
Adolfo ERASO ROMERO (Spain)
Hubert TRIMMEL (Austria)

National Delegates and Substitutes

Refer to the UIS official website (www.uis-speleo.org)

For any inconsistencies, mistake or information change of National Delegates, contact the webmaster.

UIS Departments, Commissions, and Working Groups

The Commissions and Working Groups are where the actual speleological work is done. Anyone who wants to contribute is invited to collaborate in the work of a commission under the co-ordination of its President(s)

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

<http://rubens.its.unimelb.edu.au/~pgm/uis/comms.html>

Departments:

- Protection and Management.
- Research
- Documentation
- Exploration
- Education
- Advisory Committee

Department of Protection and Management.

Département de la Protection.

President: Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS, Belgium

*COMMISSION ON PROTECTION, MANAGEMENT AND TOURISM IN CAVES AND KARST REGIONS
COMMISSION POUR LA PROTECTION, L'EXPLOITATION ET LE TOURISME DES CAVITÉS ET DES RÉGIONS KARSTIQUES*

President: Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS, Belgium

Department of Research

Département de la Recherche Scientifique

COMMISSION ON BIOLOGY

COMMISSION DE BIOLOGIE

President: Dr. John HOLSINGER, USA
Secretary: Dr. Jill YAGER, USA
Treasurer: Dr. Oana MOLDOVAN, Romania

COMMISSION ON MICROBIOLOGY AND GEOMICROBIOLOGY

COMMISSION DE MICROBIOLOGIE ET GEOMICROBIOLOGIE

Presidents: Dr. Hazel BARTON, USA; and Dr. Juan GONZALEZ, Spain
Secretary: Dr. Juan GIARRIZO, Spain

COMMISSION ON PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY AND HYDROGEOLOGY OF KARST

COMMISSION DE LA PHYSICO-CHIMIE ET DE L'HYDROGÉOLOGIE DU KARST

President: Dr. Yavor Y. SHOPOV, Bulgaria

COMMISSION ON PALEOKARST AND SPELEOCHRONOLOGY

COMMISSION DU PALÉOKARST ET DE LA SPÉLÉOCHRONOLOGIE

President: Dr. Stein-Erik LAURITZEN, Norway

COMMISSION ON GLACIER, FIRN, AND ICE CAVES

COMMISSION DES GROTTES EN GLACIÈRS, GLACIÈRS, ET NÉVÉ.

President: Adolfo ERASO ROMERO, Spain

WORKING GROUP ON ICE IN CAVES

GROUPE DE TRAVAIL SUR LA GLACE DANS LES GROTTES

President: Aurel PERSOIU, USA

COMMISSION ON VOLCANIC CAVES

COMMISSION DES GROTTES VOLCANIQUES

President: Jan Paul van der PAS, Netherlands

WORKING GROUP ON HYDROTHERMAL KARST

GROUPE DE TRAVAIL: KARST HYDROTHERMALE

President: Yuri Viktorovich DUBLYANSKY, Russia

COMMISSION ON KARST HYDROGEOLOGY AND SPELEOGENESIS

COMMISSION POUR L'HYDROGÉOLOGIE KARSTIQUE ET LA SPÉLEOGENESE

President: Dr. Alexander KLIMCHOUK, Ukraine

COMMISSION ON CAVE MINERALOGY

COMMISSION POUR LA MINÉRALOGIE DANS LES GROTTES

President: Dr. Bogdan Onac, USA

COMMISSION ON „PSEUDOKARST“

COMMISSION DU „PSEUDOKARST“

Honorary President: Jiří KOPECKÝ, Czech Republic

President: Jan URBAN, Poland
Secretary: Ludovit GAAL, Slovakia

COMMISSION ON ARCHEOLOGY AND PALEONTOLOGY IN CAVES

COMMISSION POUR L'ARCHÉOLOGIE ET LA PALÉONTOLOGIE DANS LES GROTTES

Presidents: Roman HAPKA, Switzerland; David HUBBARD, USA

PERMANENT COMMISSION ON SPELEOTHERAPY

COMMISSION PERMANENTE DE

SPÉLÉOTHERAPIE

Honorary President: Beata SANDRI, Austria
President: Dr. Pavel SLAVÍK
Vice Presidents: Dr. Jaroslav CHONKA, Ukraine; Dr. Iuri SIMIONCA, Romania; Dr. Rudolf PAVUZA, Austria
Secretary: Jitka SUCHÁNKOVÁ, Czech Republic
Bibliography: Dr. Oldřich NAVRÁTIL, Czech Republic

COMMISSION ON ARTIFICIAL CAVITIES
COMMISSION DES CAVITÉS ARTIFICIELLES
New officers are being elected. Contact Mario
Parise for more information at
m.parise@ba.irpi.cnr.it.

Department of Documentation
Departement de la documentation

COMMISSION OF BIBLIOGRAPHY COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA BIBLIOGRAPHIE
President: Patrick DERIAZ, Switzerland

COMMISSION ON LONGEST AND DEEPEST
CAVES
COMMISSION DES GRANDES CAVITÉS
President: Aitana TAMAYO, Spain
Secretary: Pat KAMBESIS, USA

COMMISSION ATLAS OF KARST REGIONS
COMMISSION POUR L'ATLAS DES RÉGIONS
KARSTIQUES
President: Dr. Karl-Heinz PFEFFER, Germany

INFORMATICS COMMISSION
COMMISSION POUR L'INFORMATIQUE
President: Peter MATTHEWS, Australia
WORKING GROUP: SURVEY AND
MAPPING
GROUPE DE TRAVAIL: TOPOGRAPHIE ET
DESSIN
President: Philipp HÄUSELMANN, Swit-
zerland

COMMISSION ON HISTORY OF SPELEOLOGY
COMMISSION POUR L'HISTOIRE DE LA
SPÉLÉOLOGIE
President: Karl MAIS, Austria

COMMISSION ON ARTS AND LETTERS
COMMISSION DES ARTS ET LETTRES
President: Ian CHANDLER, Spain
Secretary: Lois MANNO, USA
Treasurer: Asa LINNMAN, Sweden

Department of Exploration
Departement de l'exploration

COMMISSION OF CAVE RESCUE
COMMISSION DE SPÉLÉO-SECOUR
President: Christian DODELIN, France

TECHNIQUES AND MATERIALS DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION
COMMISSION DU DEVELOPPEMENT DU
MATÉRIEL ET TECHNIQUES
President: vacant

CAVE DIVING COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA PLONGÉE SOUTERRAINE
President: Phillippe BRUNET, France

Department of Education and Teaching
Departement de l'Enseignement spéléologique
President: Marcel MEYSSONNIER, France

COMMISSION OF SPELEOLOGICAL EDUCATION
COMMISSION DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT
SPÉLÉOLOGIQUE
President: Marcel MEYSSONNIER, France

ADVISORY COMMITTEE
COMITÉ CONSULTATIF
Members (alphabetic order):
Dr. Pavel BOSAK, Czech Republic
Dr. Arrigo A. CIGNA, Italy
Dr. Julia JAMES, Australia
Friedrich OEDL, Austria
Dr. Hubert TRIMMEL, Austria

UIS Addresses

Addresses of members and honorary members of the UIS Bureau and Presidents of the UIS Commissions and Working Groups.

Refer to the UIS official website (www.uis-speleo.org)

For any inconsistencies, mistakes or information changes of National Delegates, contact the webmaster.

Contributions and Bank Accounts

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The UIS General Assembly at the 15th ICS decided to change the annual contributions of the UIS member-countries to Euro currency, while keeping the same rates as those since 1994. The annual contributions will be as follows, starting from January 2010:

Category A	300 Euros
Category B	200 Euros
Category C	50 Euros

Each UIS member country has the free choice of the category in accordance with its own financial possibilities and with the number of speleologists or speleological societies/ associations/ federations/ clubs/ institutions

The UIS Bureau is authorized to reduce or to remit the contributions, if the UIS member-country makes a respectively written demand. If the UIS Bureau requires, the UIS member country has to give reasons for the difficulties of a payment.

The authorization of the UIS Bureau to reduce or remit the contributions confirms that the impossibility of a payment by actual political problems or difficulties will not be an argument to exclude any member country from the international collaboration within the structure of the UIS.

UIS Bank Account

Account name

Mednarodna speleološka zveza - UIS
Titov trg 2
6230 Postojna
Slovenia

Bank (name and address)

Banka Koper d.d.
Traška 2
6230 Postojna
Slovenia

Account No.

IBAN SI56 1010 0003 7861 520

SWIFT Code: BAKOSI2X

Accepted Currencies:

USD (United States Dollars)
EUR (Euros)
SIT (Slovenian tollars)