

UIS BULLETIN

Union Internationale de Spéléologie

December, 2013

Volume 56

Number 1 of 2



BRNO!

WHERE THE HISTORY MEETS THE FUTURE

July, 2013. Hundreds of speleologists, cavers, scientists and related friends gather in front of the main entrance of the BVV Trade Fair, the Congress Venue in the great city of Brno for a group photo.

The whole environment was full of happiness, joy and a deep sense of comradeship at its best. With more than 1,000 registered participants from 53 countries, this event demonstrated how hard the Congress Organizing Committee worked toward excellence.

There is no doubt that quality, perseverance, joy, satisfaction and a full heart devoted to speleology means everything for our fellow cavers in the Czech Republic and around the world.

With these expectations let us continue on the road to our next stop: **Australia 2017!**

The Number 2 of this Volume 56 will be published soon and will bring all the details of this 16th ICS, as well as the UIS Code of Ethics in other languages and more information of interest to the speleological community. Wait!

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ***New Bureau, new projects for the next four years***
- ***Reports of Commissions***
- ***New approved documents***
- ***Minutes of General Assemblies and Meetings***
- ***and more...***


UIS BULLETIN

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Union Internationale de Spéléologie

Founded in Postojna, Slovenia, 1965

The UIS is a non-profit, non-governmental worldwide speleological organization that promotes the development of interaction between academic and technical speleologists of a wide range of nationalities to develop and coordinate international speleology in all of its scientific, technical, cultural and economic aspects.

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Author: Zdeněk Motýčka

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REMEMBER
 SAVE A TREE;
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Editorial

From the New Editor in Chief

By Efraín MERCADO (Puerto Rico)
emercado@caribe.net

For the last 50 years the UIS Bulletin have been transformed to show the changing steps of a great organization. The making of this communication tool was in the hands of the Secretary General as part of the task commended by the General Assembly.

An extraordinary work has been done by all General Secretaries, with an outstanding sense of responsibility, taking into account that technology not necessary was at the level we enjoy it nowadays. Every possible effort was made to keep this informative tool available to the nations that form part of the UIS, to the cavers, to the speleologists, to the scientist and to everybody who was interested in this awesome subterranean world.

The first UIS Bulletin was published in 1970, almost 44 years ago, by Prof. Dr. Hubert Trimmel (Austria), UIS General Secretary by that time. Under his responsibility, 38 issues were made (printed) and mailed. It was a huge task done with dedication to the caving community along the world. The hard work and efficiency of Dr. Trimmel was the path for future editions.

In 1994 the UIS Bulletin get in the hands of Prof. Dr. Pavel Bosak (Czech Republic), who introduce several changes in the format. Dr. Pavel continues the extraordinary work done years before, adding versatility and a new face, making it still more interesting. New technology made possible to either print or send electronically the UIS Bulletin,

reaching much more cavers, speleologist and cave scientist around the world. 14 volumes of the Bulletin were produced by the skilled hand of Prof. Dr. Pavel Bosak from 1994 to 2005.

Another breakthrough was made in the UIS Bulletin when Dr. Fadi Nader (Lebanon) became elected as Secretary General in 2005 (Greece). Due to the access of faster technology the UIS Bulletin not only gets in the hands by e-mail but also it was possible to have a collection of past issues in the UIS Website.

Dynamism is part of the UIS Bulletin. During the 16th ICS in Brno, the Bulletin gets in the hands of the Vice-president of Operations, Efraín MERCADO (Puerto Rico). A team was assembled to fulfill this great responsibility and two Brazilians get in immediately; Nivaldo COLZATO, with experience in the commercial printing industry and Ana Paula S. RHEINFRANCK Peleje, an experienced graphic designer.

From now on the UIS Bulletin will be produced in Adobe InDesign program and will be available either in PDF and Flash format (within the UIS web site). Certainly this is a great beginning, with an issue of 77 pages and the expectation of having it published more often. Issue N° 56 will be the landmark of it. More interactivity, fresh design and ease of navigation but respecting the hard work of our founding fathers.

Be ready for it! And, please, we will appreciate very much your comments and suggestions.

MESSAGE FROM THE UIS PRESIDENT

By Prof Dr. Kyung Sik WOO (Rep. of Korea), UIS elected President
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Dr. Kyung Sik WOO (Rep. of Korea) during the General Assembly of the 16th ICS, Brno, Czech Republic, July 2013

Dear caving friends,

First of all, I would like to thank you to all of you for giving me the chance to work for you as President of the UIS. I am happy to say that I am willing to serve in this position for the sake of all the cavers and caving scientists in the world. I am a geologist and have been teaching at the Department of Geology in Kangwon National University, Republic of Korea. When I was involved in working for a cave project for the first time about 26 years ago, I was fascinated that there are so many interesting research subjects that can be solved only from caves. Among them, various processes of speleothem growth truly gave me a strong insight for my research.

Since then, I have been working on speleogenesis and paleoclimatic studies. In 1987 I organized a caving club in my university and started caving very seriously. I also established the Cave Research Institute of Korea to carry out exploration and scientific investigation and to evaluate and enhance the management of show caves for better conservation.

After I decided to stand as the president of the UIS, and while working as a Bureau member for the past 8 years, I have been thinking about what I should do and what I can do for the UIS. I think one of the things, which needs to be done,

is more active involvement of member countries and the expansion of new members. There are many countries that could become member countries of the UIS. In addition, we need to draw attention from all the member countries to achieve a more active involvement to raise the global awareness and protection of caves.

Secondly, the UIS Bureau will support the Departments, Commissions, and Working Groups in their efforts to be more active in the near future. These sections of the UIS produce the majority of the UIS' work, and supporting them is important to assure a prosperous future for the UIS. Possibly joint work or joint meetings among the commissions can be one way to increase their productivity.

Thirdly, the UIS is now an associate member of the ICSU, which is the International Council of Scientific Unions. We need to let the world know how important caves are and how important cave science is for future generations. I will do my best to deliver strongly these messages to the world for better conservation of caves. I have been working with the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) as a member of the WCPA (World Commission on Protected Areas), and I think it will be good to develop a relationship with the IUCN and UNESCO.

We can further develop our association with the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), International Geographic Union (IGU), Global Network of National Geoparks (GGN), etc., to extend our scope of scientific and social activities.

As your new President of the UIS, I promise you that I will devote myself as a caver, scientist, and a friend of yours, to make the UIS more effective in serving you and all speleology.

I wish you all the best for your caving and cave research in the future. See you all again in Australia.

Thank you very much.

Kyung Sik Woo

President of the UIS

Building blocks

NEW BUREAU, NEW PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE

By Efraín MERCADO (Puerto Rico), UIS Vice-President of Operations
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A New Bureau is in charge as accepted by the General Assembly in the 16th ICS in Brno, Czech Republic for the 2013-2017 period, and thus lots of good and great ideas to work with, especially from the recently elected members. Changes always come with great expectations and this Bureau is not different in that.

During the 2012 Cancún, México, Bureau meeting, there were ideas concerning the optimization of the organization. They will greatly help in the daily interaction between scientists, speleologists and cavers, easing the communication among them. Certainly, the enhancement of communications should expose more exchange of information, especially those aiming toward the exploration, protection and conservation of valuable natural resources in karstic and other areas.

The initial elements of an enhanced UIS fall under five important factors, as defined by Dr. Kyung Sik WOO, President of the UIS.

GOOD RELATIONSHIPS WITH NATIONAL DELEGATES

The first of the UIS Building Blocks is *Good Relationships* with national delegates. It is necessary to keep a strong two-way interaction among the people who represent the member countries at UIS. By doing this the involved parts will feel a common respect and the confidence to exchange ideas, concerns and a better way of looking for solutions. UIS is not only composed of countries. UIS is each of us working toward a better and more functional speleology. What affects one affects all. The fact that the organization has two vice presidents is because it is necessary to pay attention to two main areas: administration and operations. They both interact to bring as much coverage as possible to the daily issues among our member nations and the evolving of the UIS. So good relationships is very important.



Efraín Mercado (Puerto Rico)

STRONGER FINANCES

The second building block is *Stronger Finance*. UIS strives for cooperation with related organizations that could strengthen our finances in order to get closer to the aims of the organization. Certain activities demand the use of financial resources. While analyzed on a case by case basis, we should be financially strong enough to support those projects that are in line with our objectives of knowledge, exploration, protection and education in the field of speleology. Such is the case of equipment manufacturers and other companies and organizations that could mutually get

interested in speleology, as an example, supporting UIS projects.

We should remember that UIS Bureau members are volunteers. They bring their best to represent not only the UIS but also cavers, cave scientists and parties interested in speleology. While Bureau members usually pay out of their pockets most of the expenditures, a good way to recognize their commitment and effort is by helping local caving organizations that sponsor UIS Bureau meetings to share cost of lodging, meals and transportation in the country. In the same way of thinking, international explorations, the defense of particularly important and sensible environmental issues around the world and the promotion of new member nation have very important impacts in the UIS' finances. UIS is engaged in activities that require funding, like the International Journal of Speleology, book printing, bank account processing fees and reports, and Commissions projects. By looking at partnerships with companies and entities that like to be affiliated or in a joint venture with speleology is a good way to strengthen our finances.

DEVELOP FEE PAYMENT SYSTEM

The third building block is *Develop* a good system that eases the way member nations pay their an-

nual fees to the UIS. For years, it has been an issue because of the difficulties of expensive bank transactions, the money exchange rate and the opportunity to get in contact with the people in charge due to geographical distance. Waiting four years to be present in at a UIS International Congress is very long to the Treasurer to get the funds necessary for the running of UIS projects. In order to be proficient and efficient, UIS is looking for a system to ease the collection of annual fees by providing a method of payment thru its website that goes direct to the bank, without intermediaries.

Our webmaster, Jasmina RIJAVEC is working with a team of volunteers in conjunction with the Vice president of Operations to get this solved. Certainly easing the process of fee payment will assure a constant flow of money to keep the health of the finances and to provide the necessary backup of the running and future projects.

IMPROVED RELATIONS

The fourth building block is *Improved Relations* with scientific organizations around the world. As an important scientific organization, UIS also needs to improve its standing by getting involved, work with and be part of important international science bodies like ICSU (International Council for Science), UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), GGN (Global Geoparks Network), IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), IGU (International Geographical Union)

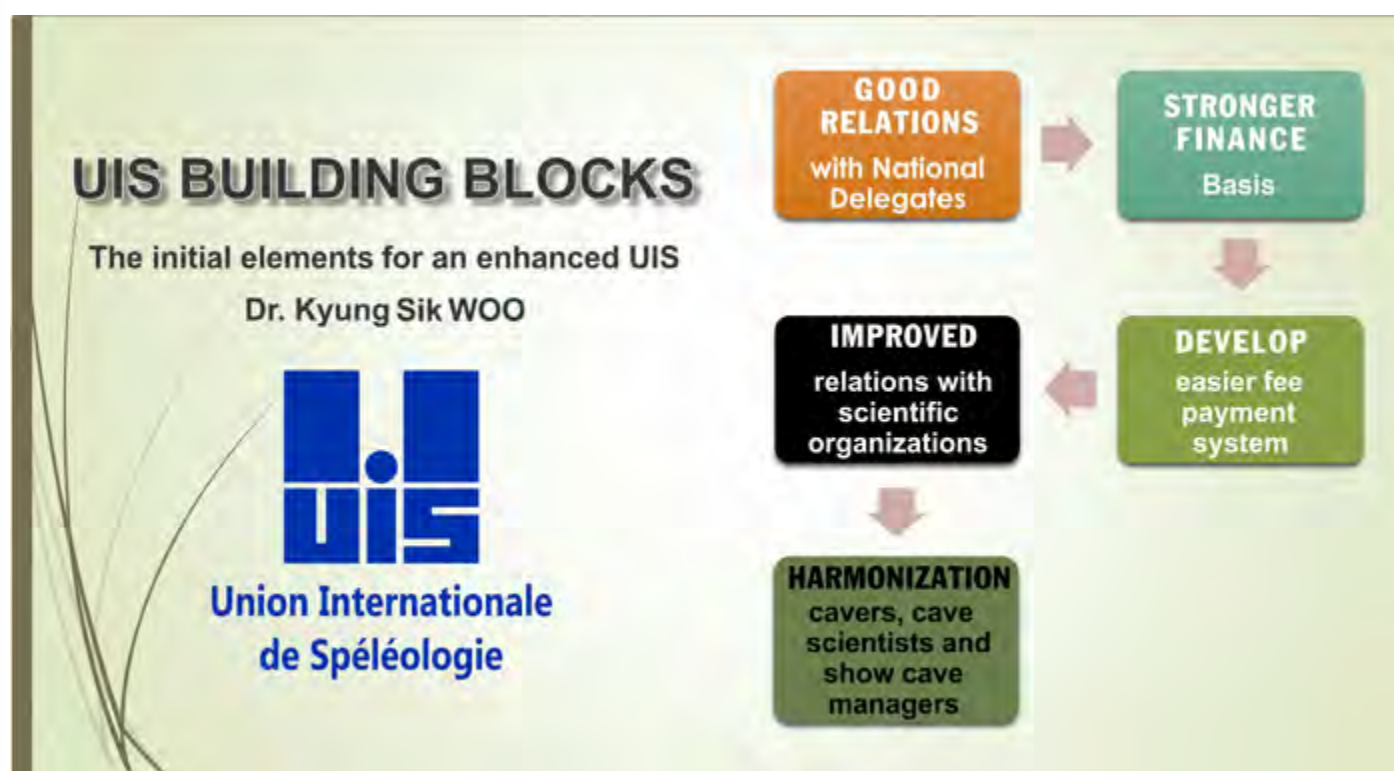
and others. By improving relations with those highly recognized institutions, UIS will be able to cooperate and strengthen its vision about caves and karst phenomena in order to be part of important decisions about these resources around the world. The interaction among scientific institutions has the effect to enhance speleology and to bring new ideas to deal with common issues.

HARMONIZATION

Finally but not least, the fifth building block is *Harmonization* among cavers, cave scientists, and show cave managers. We all work toward the same goal, sometimes in different ways. Nevertheless, we all come to the same objective: the conservation, knowledge, protection and education regarding caves and related resources anywhere around the planet. UIS should provide the space to get a healthy relationship with the cavers they represent, because they are the ones that have fundamental expertise to reach in, the cave scientist, because they reveal the information within and the show cave managers, because they teach people about the importance of protection and bring economic development to surrounding communities.

The UIS is seeking to strengthen the relationships among people who are committed to the conservation, study and protection of underground resources. There will be no progress if there is no teamwork among us.

Graphics for reference:



ACTIVITY REPORT 2009-2013

COMMISSION ON INFORMATICS

By Peter Matthews
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Peter Matthews (Australia) leading the Commission Meeting during the 16th ICS in Brno, Czech Republic - July 29, 2013

INFORMATICS COMMITTEE MEETING

Brno, Czech Republic - July 29, 2013

- Welcome.
- Attendance sheet circulated - see details below.
- Extra agenda items were invited. The following additions were requested:

- Publications exchange

Trevor Faulkner

- “Caves of the World” database

Frédéric Delègue & Fadi Nader

- Informatics Report 2009-2013. The report was read out as published on the website and in the UIS Bulletin. There were no comments or business arising from the report.

PROJECTS

SURVEY & MAPPING WORKING GROUP

Philipp Häuselmann

Philipp planned to suspend the working group if it had no new work. He asked on new items for a long time. There has now been a request for symbols for artificial caves, so this will be the next project.

- Maybe later, review our old symbols if necessary to ensure that they cover the newer surveying techniques, e.g. 3D laser scanning in caves.
- Efrain Mercado offers to look for resources and organise translation of the mapping symbols into Spanish.
- There is a need of better publicity of the UIS survey and mapping standards - e.g. on UIS web pages, but also national organisations must promote their use on new maps.

CAVERS MULTI-LINGUAL DICTIONARY WORKING GROUP

Mladen Garasic

Polish language added to the multi-lingual dictionary during the Congress week, so now we have 22 languages. First drafts of Ukrainian, Russian and Turkish language are received since the Congress.

POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS

- Group concepts into subject categories according to the UIS subject classification. Mladen is assigning categories. OK
- Link concepts to definitions in the relevant language, e.g. in a given concept, click on a language code to go to a definition of that concept in that language. Obviously, the progress is determined when directly addressable language definitions become available on the web. Some English ones are available now, e.g. Field's glossary on the Speleogenesis website, and Ackroyd's addressable version of the old Jennings Australian list. Any other directly addressable languages available? OK, but no other languages were offered at this stage.
- Tidy up existing material. OK
- Is it possible to make the Dictionary interactive for translating words? e.g. type in an included word and then be able to translate it to another language. This can be looked at. Any volunteers?
- The Dictionary needs better publicity, e.g. add to “Resources” on the UIS home page, and better placement in the KIP (Karst Information Portal).

CAVE/KARST DATA FIELDS DEFINITIONS

- Currently all 600+ fields and definitions are in a database, which produces the existing web pages on the UISIC website. Multiple languages are catered for.
- Planned: As well as more “caving” entries, engage the scientific community per scientific discipline to provide their peer-reviewed fields and definitions.
- To facilitate new fields, build a robust web database to allow on-line authorised additions and updates. Possibly adapt the Australian data dictionary and authorisation software, maybe load it on the Karst Information Portal (KIP).

DATA ARCHIVE / TRANSFER FORMAT

- This is a mark-up language to enable the independent archiving and transfer of cave, karst and survey data. It would be XML-based and product-independent.
- It could be based on an existing geographic markup language, or designed from scratch. Existing markup languages such as GML are quite complex and daunting, unless a suitable subset can be used as a base. Volunteers?
- Several draft cave survey XML mark-up languages are around - start with one of those?

DOCUMENTATION SOLUTION EXAMPLES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

- A web page with links to examples of “how we have done it” from around the world. Examples are invited.

BASIC CAVE DOCUMENTATION STANDARDS

- This is a project recommended by George Veni some years ago but not started yet.
- This would include basic minimums both for preparing the documentation and for what data to record for each cave. Volunteers?

PUBLICATIONS EXCHANGE

Trevor Faulkner

- Trevor runs the BCRA periodicals exchange facility and would like to see an efficient arrangement put in place for ongoing exchanges around the world, both to provide a safety archive for the material, and to spread speleo information. There are many issues to be resolved, so we decided to set up a Working Group.
- The question arose as to whether it would be better under the Bibliography Commission or

under the Informatics Commission. From later discussion between the two commissions, the decision was to set up under Informatics, but retain close liaison with Bibliography, and with Patrick Deriaz as a member of the working group.

- Trevor to advise the proposed terms of reference for the working group.

CAVE DATABASE OF THE WORLD

- Fadi Nader introduced Frédéric Delègue who has set up a web-based cave database of the world (20,000+ caves), contributed to by cavers, like a Wikipedia, and has requested UIS collaboration and endorsement. The Bureau has discussed this and recommends a working group under the Informatics Commission. It is in favour, but requires certain conditions in order to work with. For example, no data is to be allowed online for any country until an agreement has been reached with that country about what level of data is allowed. For example, only locations to nearest 10km, only caves which are well-known and protected, no restrictions at all, or whatever in between.
- Frédéric will advise UISIC who the leader will be. It will be someone who can conduct the group using English language, but Frédéric will be part of the group of course.

ELECTIONS

President: No offers were forthcoming, so Peter Matthews will remain as President.

Vice-President: No offers were made or available, so we have no Vice-President to assist the Commission, but this will be pursued further.

OTHER ITEMS

- Our emailing list is to be restarted - please send me your email address if interested - the Attendees list below will be a starter.
- Any other volunteers to help with our projects? None came forward. However, an offer to help was received later during the Congress from Jean-Claude Thies of Luxembourg. Thanks Jean-Claude! Any other offers of help?
- Wookey is interested in compiling a list of all cave databases around the world with details on the system used. A start on this already exists on the UISIC website on the Contacts page; however, it is very out of date. Please send details of your country's cave/karst databases to Wookey (email below).

ATTENDEES AT THE MEETING

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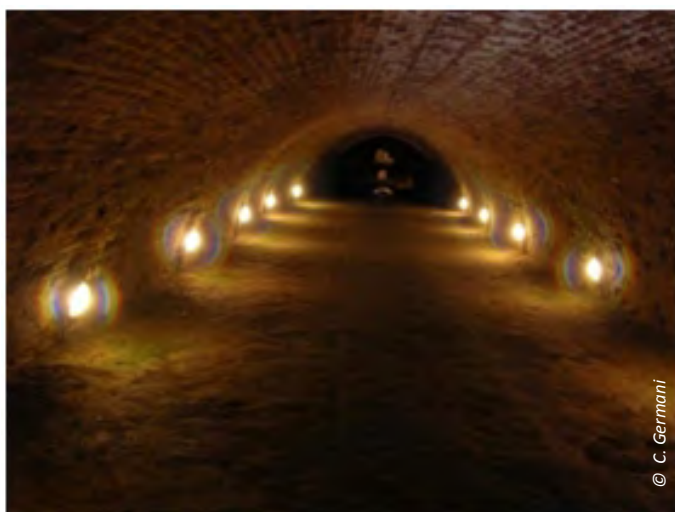
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ACTIVITY REPORT 2009-2013

COMMISSION ON ARTIFICIAL CAVITIES

by Mario PARISE, President
m.parise@ba.irpi.cnr.it



The prisons of Spielberg where Silvio Pellico was a prisoner for ten years. (<http://www.operaipogea.it/?p=764>)

Soon after the last International Congress of Speleology, held at Kerrville (USA) in July 2009, the Commission on Artificial Cavities underwent a re-organization, and Mario Parise (Italy) was appointed as his President. The re-organization started from inviting the past President, Joep Orbons, to join as vice-president, in order not to lose the work previously done. Then, the activities began by looking for members interested in the topic, and we were able to contact, and include in the Commission, several people, very active in exploring, surveying and publishing materials about artificial cavities. So far, the

Commission is formed by 11 members from 7 countries (essentially, from Europe). The complete list of members is provided at the end of this report, and available at the UIS website as well. The commission is still open to inclusion of other members, especially from other countries, so far not yet represented in the Commission (from the Middle East, to Asia, but also other European countries as Spain, Portugal, and Greece).

In the following, the main activities carried out by the Commission, or in which the Commission was officially involved, are listed.

In December 2010, the VII National Congress on Speleology in Artificial Cavities was held in Urbino, Italy, from December 4 to 8. The Congress had the patronage from UIS, and, as UIS representative, his President was invited to take part to the Opening Ceremony. During the Congress that was transmitted by direct streaming via the internet forty-seven works were presented, with additional 18 posters. The works dealt with many different types of artificial cavities, covering practically all the Italian regions, but also with contributions from other countries (Turkey, Slovenia, and Libya). The congress proceedings have been published in Opera Ipogea, the Journal of Speleology in Artificial Cavities published by the Italian Speleological Society.

The most significant moment of the Commission work during the considered time span was scheduled for the year 2012, with organization of an international Workshop in Italy, dedicated to "Classification of

the typologies of artificial cavities in the world". The workshop, that received the patronage of the UIS, and was held on May 18-20, 2012, in Turin, consisted in 11 invited lectures covering several aspects of the classification of artificial cavities, plus additional 10 posters, and a final discussion devoted to establishing a general classification of artificial cavities. At the workshop, attended by some tens of participants, we were honored to have the presence of a past UIS President, Arrigo Cigna, and a UIS Adjunct Secretary, Giovanni Badino.

The proceedings of the workshop have been collected and, after peer-review, have been published in 2013 as a special issue of the journal *Opera Ipogea*.



Opera Ipogea Journal

http://www.operaipogea.it/?page_id=30

Then, the Commission has worked together with the organization Committee of the 16th International Congress of Speleology at Brno, by proposing a specific session, entitled "Speleological Research and Activities in Artificial Underground". The session was very successful, receiving 18 abstracts from ten different countries worldwide. The presentations were in oral and poster sessions. The session program has been attended by many people with great interest, and thorough discussions followed many presentations, dealing with artificial cavities of different typologies (mines, worship sites, hydraulic works, civilian settlements, etc.) in different parts of the world (Brazil, Israel, Italy, Russia, Slovenia, Sweden, Turkey).

Further, in the meeting of the Commission on Artificial Cavities, with presence of some 30 people, several issues were discussed, including proposals of

new members in the Commission, future activities and conferences, planning and realization of both the website and the newsletter of the Commission.

As future commitments, the Commission will work on building a website of the Commission that will include the main information on events linked to artificial cavities, a short description of the Commission members, links to their main publications and works, and a newsletter to describe the ongoing activities.

Specific activities, in co-operation with other UIS Commissions (Pseudokarst Commission – Informatics Commission, Working Group on Caver's Multi-Lingual Dictionary – Informatics Commission, Working Group on Survey and Mapping – Department of Karst and Cave Protection), have also been planned for the next years, and will be the object of dedicated projects.

Eventually, the Commission on Artificial Cavities is also preparing another meeting, scheduled for March 2015, entitled "Hypogea 2015 - International Meeting on Speleology in Artificial Cavities". The meeting will be held in Rome, thus offering the possibility to people from all the world to easily reach the location, and have the opportunity to attend interesting excursions underground the capital of Italy, one of the most remarkable sites for history and archaeology in the world. The proceedings of Hypogea 2015 will be published as a special issue of *Opera Ipogea*, following what has been done for the Workshop in Torino.

UIS COMMISSION ON ARTIFICIAL CAVITIES (AS OF JULY 2013)

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Laurent Triolet (France)

Luc Stevens (Belgium)

James Mc Carthy (Ireland)

ACTIVITY REPORT

COMMISSION ON HISTORY OF SPELEOLOGY

By Hubert Trimmel (*in memoriam*) and George Veni
gveni@nckri.org



Prof. Dr. Karl MAIS (Austria, 1940-2012)
<http://ojs.zrc-sazu.si/carsologica/article/view/58>

The most important effort of this commission's history was focused on the work of researchers in Central Europe, mainly in the Alps, Carpathians, and Dinaric Mountains up until the 1st World War. The regular biannual ALCADI Conference series, and other commission work, was interrupted by the long illness of the commission's chairperson, Karl Mais, and his death in January 2012.

In the year of Mais' death, his very important book on the life of Ludwig Karl Moser (1845-1918) was published posthumously. This book also included the results of a 2008 symposium in Trieste, Italy, dedicated to Moser. The activity of the commission has encouraged other people to study the life and work of additional researchers of Central Europe, such as Ottokár Kadic (1876-1957) of Hungary and Alexander Monk (1914-) of Austria.

Following Mais' death, Hubert Trimmel volunteered to temporarily chair this commission until a new chairperson could be located or until the 16th International Congress. He presented this report to UIS

Vice President of Administration, George Veni, at that congress for him find a new chairperson. Trimmel suggested that the continued interest in the development of speleology in Europe could be a good topic for future research, especially for the period between the 1st and 2nd World Wars, but that other ideas for future research should be welcome.

During the 16th Congress, Bernard Chirol expressed interest in continuing the work of the commission and a week after the congress he agreed to co-coordinate the commission with Friedhart Knolle. Tentatively, they are considering working on a worldwide basis, as the research for Europe is to be done on a European level. First publications may be available by the 17th Congress. Meanwhile, they will assemble a team of historians to join the commission.

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ACTIVITY REPORT 2009-2013

COMMISSION ON KARST HYDROGEOLOGY AND SPELEOGENESIS

By Prof. Dr. Alexander KLIMCHOUK, President

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Prof. Dr. Alexander KLIMCHOUK (Ukraine)

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BACKGROUND AND GOALS

The UIS Commission on Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis (KHS Commission) started in 1994 as a Working Group with the same name. In 1997, the UIS General Assembly (ICS-12, Switzerland) upgrades the working group as a Commission. The Commission had been re-approved for the periods of 2002-2005, 2005-2009 and 2010-2013 by the UIS General Assemblies at the ICS-13 held in Brazil (2001), ICS-14 held in Greece and ICS-15 held in USA (2009).

The principal goal of the Commission is to disseminate information and promote scientific co-operation and research in the field of karst hydrogeology, with special emphasis to Speleogenesis as the core

problem of the permeability development in soluble rocks and of the evolution of karst aquifers.

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

1) By sponsoring and organizing a framework for communication and information exchange between interested workers through different means, including web site, electronic and printed circulars, journals, etc.

2) By identifying specific priority topics (specific objectives) and running respective time-defined projects aimed to promote researches in specific areas and result in fundamental publications on these topics.

3) By sponsoring and assisting in organization of scientific meetings, as well as thematic symposia and sessions at large scientific conferences and congresses.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership to the KHS Commission is open for any researcher interested in its activity, sharing its goals and registered to the Speleogenesis website. Currently, 865 researchers from 86 nations have registered at the website and considered as affiliate members of the Commission (more than a double growth since the last Congress in 2009!). The members regularly receive e-mail notifications and circulars on various aspects of the Commission activity and have an access to a number of services and tools of the Speleogenesis website.

THE COMMISSION BUREAU

The formation of The Bureau of the KHS Commission was in 2002 and re-approved in 2005 and 2009. The Bureau during the last period consisted of 21 members from 10 nations:

Audra, Philippe; *France*
 Bakalowicz, Michel; *France*
 Cigna, Arrigo; *Italy*
 Dreybrodt, Wolfgang; *Germany*

Ford, Derek; *Canada*
 Gabrovsek, Franci; *Slovenia*
 Groves, Chris; *USA*
 Gunn, John; *UK*
 Hauselmann, Philippe; *Switzerland*
 Jeanning, Pierre-Yves; *Switzerland*
 Klimchouk, Alexander; *Ukraine*
 Kranjc, Andrej; *Slovenia*
 Lauritzen, Stein-Erik; *Norway*
 Lowe, David; *UK*
 Mylroie, John; *USA*
 Osborn, Armstrong; *Australia*
 Palmer, Arthur; *USA*
 Veni, George; *USA*
 White, William; *USA*
 Worthington, Steven; *Canada*

Suggestions for changes in the KHS Commission membership types and structure: (voted online during last three weeks before the Commission meeting at the ICS-16 Congress in Brno): In order to clarify membership and streamline managing the Commission activity, it was suggested to modify the formal structure and membership types as follows:

1) To set up two categories of membership in the Commission, core members and affiliated members.

2) To establish two positions of the Commission Vice-Presidents. President and Vice-Presidents would form an executive body of the Commission to manage its activity between Congresses.

Core members: active researchers, which have demonstrated academic records in the field of karst hydrogeology and speleogenesis, willing to promote the Commission goals and contribute to its activity. Initial core membership includes the colleagues, which had been the Bureau members in the current Commission, and researchers selected and invited based on their standing and activity in the field. The core members supervise the Commission activity and have the right to vote on all related questions. Further inclusion to the core membership would require a written request of an interested person and at least three recommendations from the existing core members. The core membership is to be evaluated and confirmed each four years, during last three months before a regular UIS General Assembly meeting.

Affiliated members: all interested persons, registered at the Speleogenesis website.

President, and two vice-presidents: are elec-

ted by voting among the core members for a four-year term between Congresses. Election voting for a next term was done during last three months before a regular UIS General Assembly meeting.

Re-evaluation of membership and voting on the suggested changes is performed during the last three weeks before the Congress and during the Congress in Brno. An invitation to join the core membership for the next period of 2013-2017 was extended to 42 outstanding scholars in the field, including 21 members of the past Commission Bureau. Forty colleagues have confirmed their willingness to serve as the core members (see the list below), and two colleagues have declined the invitation due to appropriate reasons. The list of the Commission core members (confirmed; representing 15 nations) for the next period of 2013-2017 is as follows:

Alexander, Calvin; *USA*
 Audra, Philippe; *France*
 Auler, Augusto; *Brazil*
 Blackeagle, Cory; *USA*
 Boston, Penny; *USA*
 Covington, Matthew; *USA*
 De Waele, Jo; *Italy*
 Doctor, Daniel; *USA*
 Dreybrodt, Wolfgang; *Germany*
 Dublyansky, Yuri; *Austria*
 Eröss, Anita; *Hungary*
 Faulkner, Trevor; *UK*
 Ford, Derek; *Canada*
 Forti, Paolo; *Italy*
 Frumkin, Amos; *Israel*
 Gabrovsek, Franci; *Slovenia*
 Ginés, Joaquin; *Spain*
 Goldscheider, Nico; *Germany*
 Groves, Chris; *USA*
 Gunn, John; *UK*
 Hauselmann, Philipp; *Switzerland*
 Jeanning, Pierre-Yves; *Switzerland*
 Kempe, Stephen; *Germany*
 Klimchouk, Alexander; *Ukraine*
 Kranjc, Andrej; *Slovenia*
 Lauritzen, Stein-Erik; *Norway*
 Lowe, David; *UK*
 Mihevc, Andrej; *Slovenia*
 Mylroie, John; *USA*
 Osborne, Armstrong; *Australia*
 Palmer, Arthur; *USA*
 Plan, Lukas; *Austria*
 Sasowsky, Ira; *USA*
 Schindel, Geary; *USA*
 Schwartz, Benjamin; *USA*
 Sustersic, France; *Slovenia*

Veni, George; *USA*
 White, Susan; *Australia*
 White, William; *USA*
 Worthington, Stephen; *Canada*

The suggested changes in the Commission membership categories and structure have been approved via online voting undertaken during three weeks before the ICS-16 in Brno, which gave the following results:

Complete responses received: 28

- Votes YES: 27
- Votes NO: 1

There were some comments regarding the suggested formulations received during the voting. One comment suggested establishing a more open method to join the Commission core membership. Yet another comment suggested to view the group of core members defined in the proposal as an Executive Bureau, still keeping some selective method of its formation, and to have just one category of general membership based on an online registration. An agreement that the Commission has to discuss and possibly further modify the structure and membership categories in the next future via online voting is established.

Nominations for the KHS Commission officers (President and two Vice-Presidents) and the elections have been performed via online polls during last three weeks before the Commission meeting at the ICS-16, with the following results:

Call for nominations for officers:

Total invitations sent: 42
 Total responses: 23
 Full responses: 19

Nominated candidates for President:

De Waele, J.
 Gabrovsek, F.
 Klimchouk, A.

Nominated candidates for Vice-president:

Audra, Ph.
 Covington, M.
 De Waele, J.
 Ford, D.
 Gabrovsek, F.
 Gines, J.
 Goldscheider, N.
 Schwartz, B.
 Williams, P.

Elections for the KHS Commission officers for the period of 2013-2017:

Total invitations sent: 42
 Total responses: 33
 Full responses: 33

Voting results:

Elected President: Alexander Klimchouk (23 votes)

Elected Vice-Presidents:

Philippe Audra (14 votes)
 Jo De Waele (12 votes)

SPELEOGENESIS.INFO - A SCIENTIFIC NETWORK

The major role of the KHS Commission is to facilitate exchange of information and communication between researchers and teams and to maintain favorable environment for emergence of various collaboration initiatives and research projects.

The Commission efficiently performs this role by developing and maintaining a web-based portal Speleogenesis.info (scientific network) (<http://speleogenesis.info/>). The site has become a major hub of activity and information not only for the KHS Commission but also for much wider circles of scholars and institutions involved into karst and geospeleology studies. In 2012, the IAH Commission on Karst Hydrogeology has officially joined the UIS KHS Commission in supporting the Speleogenesis.info website, which is now maintained as a joint project of the two commissions.

There has been a big ramp-up in the website development during the report period leading to dramatic enhancement in the site's functionality and design. Speleogenesis.info now hosts a wide array of important services and tools designed to gather, consolidate and disseminate various information related to karstology and geospeleology, and to support collaborative projects. Most of these services and resources allow distributed input, which means that registered members can directly submit/post information items.

SPELEOGENESIS CALENDAR

The most comprehensive information on cave & karst science events: <http://www.speleogenesis.info/directory/calendar/>

SPELEOGENESIS NEWS

The most representative board for news and announces on various aspects of the karst/cave scientific community life (with an email alert system): <http://www.speleogenesis.info/news.php?id=169>

KARSTBASE

An online searchable bibliography database on

Geospeleology & Karstology, with distributed input (currently over 13,000 references):

<http://www.speleogenesis.info/directory/karstbase/>

WORLD CAVE AND KARST SCIENCE JOURNALS DATABASE (16 JOURNALS)

<http://www.speleogenesis.info/directory/karstbase/wckj.php>

FEATURED PUBLICATIONS

Special representation of selected papers from karst/cave and general geoscience journals:

<http://speleogenesis.info/journal/issue/?issue=12>

THESIS / DISSERTATIONS DIRECTORY

A database of the recent thesis in cave and karst science: <http://speleogenesis.info/directory/thesis/>

GLOBAL DIRECTORY OF KARST & CAVE SCIENTISTS

(over 860 individual scholars) <http://www.speleogenesis.info/community/researchers.php>

DIRECTORY OF CAVE & KARST RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

<http://www.speleogenesis.info/institutions/>

TERMINOLOGY GLOSSARY

<http://speleogenesis.info/directory/glossary/>

SPELEOGENESIS BLOG

<http://www.speleogenesis.info/community/blog/>

There is an ongoing effort to develop a Speleogenesis Projects system on the site, aimed to serve to the formation and management of various kinds of projects on initiatives of the Commission members.

On behalf of the Commission, I'd like to extend our thanks to the Speleogenesis webmaster Alexey Kopchinskiy (Austria) for his outstanding continued work on the development and technical maintenance of our really excellent website.

HYPOKARST PROJECT

During the reporting period, the Commission conducted the HypoKarst Project, aimed to coordinate and promote hypogene karst and speleogenesis research. Its 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.

The HypoKarst Project also aims to raise an awareness of researchers and practitioners about importance, specific nature and characteristics of hypogene karst, and to coordinate research efforts in the

field. The Hypokarst Project succeeded and absorbed the UIS Working Group on Hydrothermal Karst, which has been merged with the KHS Commission in 2011.

One of the main tasks of the HypoKarst project is to facilitate an organization of scientific meetings on the topic, which would continue the line of very successful special conferences held in USA (2008) and Ukraine (2009). Currently, in preparation are three important events on the theme (Budapest, September 2013; Bahamas, February 2014; Carlsbad, 2016). More details about the HypoKarst Project can be found at the project page: <http://speleogenesis.info/directory/projects/hypogene/>

SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

During the reporting period the KHS Commission has co-sponsored / organized several important meetings:

International Conference “Speleology and Speleotology: Development and Interaction of Sciences”, 16-20 November 2010, Naberezhnye Chelny, Tatarstan, Russia;

International Conference “Northern karst systems in our changing environment”, 5-10 September, 2011, Pinega, Russia;

International conference on Karst Hydrogeology and Ecosystems, 8-10 June, 2011, Bowling Green, Kentucky, USA (with the KHS Commission business meeting)

<http://www.speleogenesis.info/news/?id=66>.

Preparation is in progress for several other meetings, co-sponsored by the KHS Commission, to be held in the next few years:

International Symposium on Hierarchical Flow Systems in Karst Regions will be held at the Eotvos Lorand University, Budapest, Hungary, 2-7 September 2013 (co-sponsored by the IAH Karst Commission and the UIS KHS Commission);

International Conference on Hypogene Cave Morphologies, Bahamas, 2-7 February 2014 (co-sponsored by the US Karst Water Institute and the UIS KHS Commission);

International Symposium on Karst Hydrogeology, Birmingham, UK, 23-25 June 2015 (being organized by the University of Birmingham, co-sponsored by the IAH Karst Commission, IGCP-598 and the UIS KHS Commission).

Deep Karst 2016: Origins, Resources, and Management of Hypogene Karst, Carlsbad, New Mexico, USA, 11-14 April 2016, (organized by the US National Cave and Karst Research Institute on behalf of the UIS KHS Commission).

PUBLICATIONS

During last four years the Commission members have produced well over 1,000 papers in various international journals and several important books. The most outstanding achievements are three volumes, edited by the Commission members and published by major scientific houses:

White, William B. and Culver, David C. (eds.), **Encyclopedia of Caves**. Chennai: Academic Press, 2012, 966 p.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/book/9780123838322>

Frumkin, A. (volume editor) Shroder, John F. (Treatise ed.) **Treatise on Geomorphology, Volume 6: Karst Geomorphology**, 2013, 485 pp. San Diego: Academic Press

http://www.speleogenesis.info/ftp/SGN_Docs/Treatise_on_Geomorphology_V6_Contents_KB.pdf

Lace, Michael J. and Mylroie, John E. (eds.). **Coastal Karst Landforms**. Coastal Research Library, Vol. 5., Springer, 2013, 369 p.

Issues with the journal “**Speleogenesis and Evolution of Karst Aquifers**”

The UIS KHS Commission’s online journal “**Speleogenesis and Evolution of Karst Aquifers**” has published two issues in 2011 and one issue in 2012. Some serious problems became apparent during last few years, which cast doubts on appropriateness and feasibility of the continuation of the journal publication.

The main problem roots in the specific publication model taken for the journal at the beginning. The journal started in early 2003, being the only one providing online open access among karst/cave science journals at the time. The policy was to avoid a competition with other sister karst/cave journals for original papers as *Acta Carsologica* and *IJS* have been struggling for getting the ISI impact factor in that period.

Therefore, only occasional original papers were published by SEKA. Instead, the focus in SEKA was made on re-publishing selected papers on the topic from the sister journals (by their permissions, and with full reference to the original citation informa-

tion) and from somewhat obscured sources (such as conference proceedings and local collections) in order to enhance visibility of important papers.

This model worked well during several years and brought a substantial popularity to the journal. However, when other main karst/cave journals have moved to the online open access mode and managed to get on the ISI listing, adherence to the original publication model for SEKA has become unreasonable. Re-publishing papers online from the sister journals does make sense any more, but submissions of original quality papers naturally go to the journals that have an ISI impact factor. In this situation, SEKA journal has been facing increasing difficulties in maintaining high scientific level of its content and publication regularity.

Two possible solutions are obvious: 1) to cease publishing the journal, or 2) to consider a feasibility of switching to a classical journal model and starting a long run process of getting an ISI impact factor. The latter option also implies consideration of whether the karst/cave science community really needs in yet another IF journal, in addition to three existing ones (*JCKS*, *AC* and *IJS*), also having in mind that one more journal is currently under ISI review for the impact factor (British C&KS).

These problems with the journal “**Speleogenesis and Evolution of Karst Aquifers**” have been reported and discussed during the Commission meeting in Brno in July 26. The discussion has revealed a consensus on the validity of the presented problem analysis. Several colleagues have underscored an important role that SEKA has played in promoting speleogenesis and broader karst and cave studies, and in promoting an online open access publication model in the field. In view of the lack of an institutional support for the SEKA continuation and of doubtfulness on the need for another impact factor journal in the field, the discussion at the meeting has supported a proposal to cease the SEKA publication.

It was recommended to maintain an access to the journal archive (12 issues) and further focus in the *Speleogenesis* website on featuring selected publications from various sources, which are important to the field of speleogenesis and karst hydrogeology and evolution.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER KARST ORGANIZATIONS

The UIS KHS Commission has established an excellent collaboration with the IAH Karst Commission (co-chairs Dr. Nico Goldscheider and Dr. Neven Kresic) and the UNESCO/IUGS IGCP Project 598 (“Environmental change and sustainability in Karst

Systems”; co-leaders Dr Zhang Cheng and Prof. Chris Groves).

The IAH Karst Commission and particularly Dr. Nico Goldscheider have been instrumental in finding sponsors for the Commission – a very valuable help! Several Commission members are involved in the IAH-supported WOKAM (World Karst Aquifer Mapping) Project.

The Commission acknowledges continuing support of its activity by the US National Cave and Karst Research Institute, US Karst Water Institute and the Ukrainian Institute of Speleology and Karstology.

SPONSORS

Starting from 2012, two companies have become the UIS KHS Commission sponsors:

MWH Global – a global leader in wet infrastructure (<http://www.mwhglobal.com/>; Dr. David Evans);

Enviroscan, Inc. - nonintrusive, nondestructive geophysics (<http://www.enviroscan.com/>; Dr. Timothy D. Bechtel).

Financial support at € 3100 provided by our sponsors in 2012 has been aimed and directed to further developments of the Speleogenesis.info website.

Also, the Commission received US\$ 710 from UIS in 2012 to reimburse the website hosting costs during 2008-2012.

The UIS also confirmed that it will cover these expenses at the level of US\$ 150 yearly during the coming years, at least till 2017.

On behalf of the Commission, I sincerely thank our Sponsors for their valuable support!

CONCLUSION

The UIS KHS Commission continued to be very active during the reporting period. It has successfully performed its role in advancing studies in the field of karst hydrogeology and speleogenesis and in fostering scientific cooperation in the field.

Intense publication and organizational activity of many Commission members has successfully promoted the roles of speleogenetic studies in karst hydrogeology, reservoir characterization and geological engineering.

The importance of speleogenetic studies is getting increasingly recognized in the broad geoscience community.



ACTIVITY REPORT 2009-2013

COMMISSION ON SPELEOCHRONOLOGY AND PALEOKARST

By Stein-Erik LAURITZEN

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There is a wide international activity in the scientific community in the topics of speleochronology, paleoclimate and paleokarst. Most of them are outside the UIS. For instance, the “Climate Change, the Karst Record” conference series (commenced in Bergen in 1996), continues in its 7th cycle as an autonomous event.

Likewise, paleokarst research is to a large extent the focus of petroleum industry and is followed up through dedicated conferences. There is no doubt that cavers do contribute to these topics; many of us contribute in these meetings.

It is however time to leave the

estafet-baton of the commission to younger forces to bring the focus back into the UIS. Until a new person wants to take up the Commission on Paleokarst and Speleochronology, it is inactivated for the time being.

“[Editor’s note: The above report was submitted to describe the work of the commission from 2009-2013. While it ends saying the commission will be deactivated, when its members met in Brno at the 16th International Congress of Speleology they decided to continue the commission.]”



© Stein-Erik Lauritzen

Stein-Erik LAURITZEN (Norway)

ACTIVITY REPORT 2009-2013

COMMISSION ON PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY AND HYDROGEOLOGY OF KARST

By Prof. Dr. Yavor SHOPOV, President

vyshopov@phys.uni-sofia.bg



Prof. Dr. Yavor SHOPOV (Bulgaria)

The UIS Commission on Physical Chemistry and Hydrogeology of Karst has 120 members from 37 countries. Recently the main activity of the commission is to create a bridge between the studies of Cave Climate and Speleothem Records and to reduce the amount of unnecessary sampling of speleothems. To achieve this goal Commission organized a series of international meetings on Cave Climate and Paleoclimate.

The last of them was made in form of a Special Session of the 16th International Congress of Speleology. The main purpose of these meetings is to raise the popularity of UIS amongst the entire scientific community. Also to return the leading role of UIS in this strategic modern topic of research which was completely developed by UIS researchers in the past years and to try to enforce all scientists doing research in caves or on samples taken from caves to follow UIS Code of ethics.

Accordingly to the resolution taken at the official meeting of the Commission on 25th July 2013, latter approved on 28th July 2013 by the UIS General Assembly during the 16th International Congress of

Speleology in Brno, our Commission started a New International Programme for Cave Research (IPCR). It aims to establish a link between studies of the local climate, ground waters infiltration through the bedrock, karst hydrogeology and hydrochemistry, cave climate, cave microbiology, speleothem fabrics and quality of the speleothem records and to produce new results obtainable only by application of all these studies on the same cave.

So far there are no any published complete studies on this topic and this project will expand our knowledge about karst processes. Therefore, it is prospective and requires large collaboration of cave and karst researchers worldwide. So far, it has 47 participants from 25 countries, from 5 continents, but this collaboration expands extremely rapidly.

We are asking all speleologists to help to improve our knowledge in this neglected and not sufficiently well developed field. It is timely effort, because recently raised high international demand for such knowledge. It is produced by the great interest in the Global Change studies, but the best records of the Climate Change are obtained from speleothems. Therefore many main stream scientists (outside the speleological community) are very keen to study speleothem archives of the Global Change.

Resulting recent exponential growth of paleoclimatic studies of speleothems from non-speleologists produce major problems of speleothem preservation, which requires urgent actions, because this endangers speleothems from over sampling and became main issue for caves protection. This project will reduce dramatically the amount of unnecessary sampling of speleothems by establishing non-destructive criteria for the potential of any speleothem to produce reliable speleothem records.

This project will find which climatic regions produce only porous or altered speleothems, which cannot be used for measurements of reliable paleoclimatic records. It will establish proper criteria for

the potential of any speleothem for obtaining of high quality speleothem records. These criteria will be applied for sampling of speleothems. This will raise significantly the quality and reliability of the obtained speleothem records.

This programme will be made in collaboration with the Cave Minerals and Cave Microbiology commissions and with the department of Cave Protection and Management of UIS. Its execution requires large-scale collaboration of cave researchers and climatologists from all karst regions worldwide.

So WE CALL FOR CO-OPERATION OF SCIENTISTS AND CAVERS FROM ALL COUNTRIES AND FIELDS OF KARST AND CAVE RESEARCH in order to improve our understanding of the processes of precipitation of speleothems and their impact on speleothem structure and speleothem records. Please send this information to your colleagues or friends from the speleological community who may be interested in such kind of activity.

Anybody interested to collaborate in this large scale international effort should write to yyshopov@gmail.com or yyshopov@phys.uni-sofia.bg to become member of the research team and to receive details regarding the research plan. All cave researchers and caver are invited to participate in the programme.

Leaders of the programme are Prof. Yavor Shopov from Sofia University, Bulgaria and Prof. Giovanni Badino, from University of Torino, Italy. They will prepare the research plan of the programme and will distribute it amongst the programme members. Programme will have also topic leaders, which will coordinate the research in the relevant fields of research.

Project background. Laszlo Jakucs (1977) demonstrated in his book: Morphogenetics of karst regions: variants of karst evolution, John Wiley & Sons, 283 p. that karst waters hydrochemistry and karst denudation processes are strongly affected (even ruled) by the local climate due to different plants communities and amounts of biogenic products (organic acids and soil CO₂) in different climatic regions.

Although his and following studies on climatic impact on karst processes considered only 5 climatic zones and did not studied secondary calcite precipitation in speleothems. It is necessary a far more precise climatic subdivision to achieve goals of this programme. IPCR must study also the microbiological impact on speleothem deposition, which has been neglected.

In order to reduce the amount of unnecessary

sampling of speleothems Commission also decided to build a web based online catalogue (database) of all speleothem samples worldwide available for further research. Commission calls for volunteers to help to achieve this goal. Everybody is welcome to contribute with descriptions of their old published speleothem samples or with the design of the online database.

EVERY SAMPLE DESCRIBED IN THIS CATALOGUE MIGHT SAVE MANY SPELEOTHEMS IN CAVES! HELP US TO SAVE MORE SPELEOTHEMS!

Commission will also create a world depository for old speleothem samples. The Cave Minerals Commission, the British Geological survey and the museum of Earth and Man in Sofia, which is the one of the biggest mineralogical museums, will collaborate with this project.

Accordingly the decisions of the commission meeting during the 16th UIS Congress we started also a New International Programme on "Techniques for Remote Location of Caves" (RLC) using thermal vision and UV- imaging techniques.

This project aims to locate new unknown caves and caves in hardly accessible regions like Afghanistan, Pakistan or tepui in Venezuela and will be extremely helpful to expand cave exploration in new regions. This way science will help for development of the cave explorations.

This program will consist of the following stages:

- 1 - To optimize techniques on the surface and to do calibration of it on mapped caves.
- 2 - To put observational instruments on airplanes and helicopters to locate caves from the sky.
- 3 - To put observational instruments on microsatellites.
- 4 - To propose to NASA to use this techniques for location of caves on Mars.

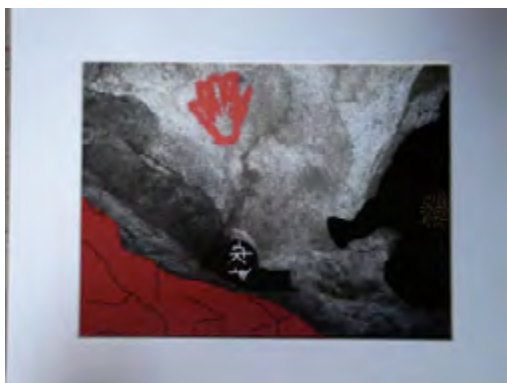
Stages 3 and 4 looks unrealistic, but the president of the Commission is head of a space research center, which intends to build new microsatellites with such instruments and have all the necessary contacts to complete it. These new Commission activities will create much better links between scientific and caving activities of UIS.

ACTIVITY REPORT 2009-2013

COMMISSION ON ARTS AND LETTERS

By Ian Ellis CHANDLER, MA. President

artcaves@yahoo.es



"For Good Fortunes", by Ian Ellis Chandler
<http://www.hawaiiiflow.com/SpleoArt/gallery.html>

During the past few years, requests were sent to all the UIS delegate countries publicizing the commission and asking people to contact the president if they were interested. Unfortunately, no replies were received.

Contact had been made with the organisers of the Brno congress, an art salon was agreed, and the president undertook to run this with the congress team. A visit to

the venue was made in 2012 to view the facilities, thanks to Zdenek Motycka. Application forms for entries, together with submission criteria were included in the pre congress information and web pages.

The salon attracted seven artists from six countries with a total of 15 works of art

shown, together with some prints. The variety of media and interpretations was wide ranging, from paintings, a quilt, woollen items, linen prints and an installation. A half day sketching workshop was undertaken in a show cave (thanks to the Czech national show cave organization) attended by five people.

Prizes were awarded in three categories in the salon, Best painting; Best multimedia; Best in Show.

During the congress informal meetings were held with artists from musicology, painting, poetry and general interest and four new members were recruited into the commission. It is expected that the next art salon will be held within Casola, Italy in October 2013. In addition contact was made with the Australian team for the Congress in 2017 and there will be an art salon with associated events.

A web page will be developed within the UIS web giving details of past and future events and containing images, texts, poems etc.



ACTIVITY REPORT 2009-2013

COMMISSION ON CAVE DIVING

By IMaxime de GIANPIETRO, President

The Cave Diving Commission held its four years intervall general meeting during the 16th ICS in Brno (CZ). An important point of the agenda was the election of a new office. Philippe Brunet, the acting president of the commission and who unfortunately could not attend the meeting, had decided to resign after eight years of presidency. Thus a new office was elected with Maxime de Gianpietro from Switzerland as the new president. Philippe kindly accepted to continue his collaboration within the commission as one of the two vice-presidents.

Thus the new office of the commission is constituted as follows:

President:

Maxime de Gianpietro, Switzerland

Vice-Presidents:

Manuel Pinto Soares, Portugal

Philippe Brunet, France



Maxime de Gianpietro (Switzerland)

Secretary:

Arjan Vaandenburg, Netherlands

Another important point was the approval by the delegates of the work delivered over the past four years, since the 2009 meeting in Kerrville (USA). The goals that at this occasion were agreed upon were reviewed and enlarged with some new ones as listed below:

“...The missions of the Cave Diving Commission for the years to come are:

To help Subaquatic Speleologists to enhance and to share the values of Scientific Speleological Exploration achieved through the exploration of springs, submerged caves, sumps and water-filled artificial cavities.

To promote worldwide free access to exploration sites for Subaquatic Speleologists on a reciprocal basis between national Speleological Federations.

To help cave diving training courses and seminars for their affiliate members.

To accredit internationally such Subaquatic Spe-

leologists that evidence proficiency in their country.

To achieve these goals the Cave Diving Commission develops and maintains relationships with the National Speleological Federations, with international regulatory authorities as well as with non-governmental organizations in the area of environmental protection and cooperates with the other commissions within the UIS....”

A website was launched in August 2013, responding to the desire expressed by the participants to the meeting, to have a platform that will present the aims and work of the commission to cave explorers and speleologists worldwide and facilitate the communication within the community. <http://cdcuiss.wordpress.com/>

The office hopes that this new communication platform will help to present its work in a more dynamic way and to be more responsive to future projects of its members.



ACTIVITY REPORT 2009-2013

COMMISSION ON VOLCANIC CAVES

By Jan-Paul van der Pas

jpgvanderpas@hetnet.nl



Jan Paul van der Pas (Netherlands) at one of many junctions in Cueva de la Iglesia in México

CURRENT SITUATION OF THE COMMISSION

Chairman:

Jan-Paul van der Pas - jpgvanderpas@hetnet.nl

Vice chairman:

Harry Marinakis - harrymarin@gmail.com

Harry takes care of our Newsletter.

The committee has a new member: Greg Middleton of Tasmania, Australia, ozspeleo@inet.au. So we have now staff on three continents.

During the congress there were (at least) 5 lectures concerning volcanic caves:

1. Bella/Gaál - Genetic Types of Non-Solution Caves,
2. Kempe/Bosted - Kahuenaha Nui - a cave developed in four different lava flows,
3. Bosted et al. - Keokeo Lava Tube System in Hawaii,
4. Addison et al. - Recent Investigations in the Galapagos Islands,
5. Woo et al. - Natural and Cultural Heritage Values of the Yongcheon Lava Tube.

The commission received a grant from UIS to cover the cost of the website domain name. This website is perfectly maintained by John Pint:

www.vulcanospeleology.org

Future symposia of the commission were discussed. Next one will be on Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, in March 2014. Final data will be soon published. Aaron Addison gave a lecture during the congress, and answered questions during the commission meeting.

Offers for next symposia are Hawaii, maybe 2016, New Mexico (USA), and Argentina. The Argentina symposium however would be a part of a national congress.



ACTIVITY REPORT 2009-2013

COMMISSION ON PSEUDOKARST

By Lúdvít Gaál (Secretary, Slovakia), and Jan Urban (President, Poland)

gaal@ssj.sk - urban@iop.krakow.pl



Members of the Commission on Pseudokarst during the 16th UIS Congress, Brno, Czech Republic, July 2013

MINUTES

In the Assembly the following items were discussed:

1. The activity of the Pseudokarst Commission of the UIS between 2009 and 2013.
2. Recapitulation of the past activity of the Pseudokarst Commission – discussion.
3. Current activities, during the International Congress of Speleology in Brno.
4. Expected events and future activities of the Commission
5. Decision on the date and place of the 13th International Symposium on Pseudokarst.
6. Decision concerning the establishing of a working group on the classification of non-karstic caves.
7. Other remarks and conclusions.

ITEM 1

Jan Urban, the president of the Commission,

delivered the report of activity of the Pseudokarst Commission of UIS between 2009 and 2013. It contained the following items:

- A. Members and functionaries of the Commission.
- B. The Assemblies of the Commission
- C. Events
- D. Publications
- E. Webpage
- F. Current activeness
- G. Future events.

ITEM 2

A. Currently, the Commission is formed of 18 members, two honorary presidents and three functionaries.

B. ASSEMBLIES:

- b.1. 9-26th July 2009 during the Congress of UIS in Kerrville, USA;
- b.2. 13th May 2010 during the

11th Symposium on Pseudokarst in Saupsdorf, Germany;

- b.3. 13th September 2012 during the 12th Symposium on Pseudokarst in Tui, Spain.

C. EVENTS:

- C.1. 11th International Symposium on Pseudokarst in Saupsdorf, Germany (2010),
- C.2. 2nd International Conference on Granite Caves in Nyneshämn, Sweden (2011),
- C.3. 12th Symposium on Pseudokarst in Tui, Spain (2012) and several other meetings connected with pseudokarst.

D. PUBLICATIONS:

- D.1. Proceedings of the 11th International Pseudokarst Symposium in Saupsdorf, Germany.
- D.2. Pseudokarst Commission Newsletter one or twice a year (no. 20/2010, 21/2010, 22/2011, 23/2012),
- D.3. Reports from meetings published in the

UIS Bulletin and national speleological or geological journals.

E. WEBPAGE:

<http://www.pub.zih.tu-dresden.de/~simmert/pkarst/>

Edited by Hartmut Simmert, presents members and documents of the Commission, newsletters, publications, history etc.

No comment was formulated on the reported past activity of the Commission.

ITEM 3

Members of the Commission have been actively participating in preparation and direct organization of the 16th ICS Congress. Commission member J. Adamovič, was a convener of the Congress session dedicated to non-karst caves. Twenty papers on non-karstic caves were presented during the Congress (6 by members of the Commission).

The participants of the meeting expressed their gratitude to J. Adamovič and other organizers of the Congress for their perfect work.

ITEMS 4 AND 5

1. The 13th International Pseudokarst Symposium in 2015 was proposed to be held in South Moravia (Czech Republic), with contributions on the management of Podyji National Park. Field trips were planned to Podyji National Park and Northern (Lower) Austria.

This proposal was considered and accepted by participants of the meeting, however the final decision will be made by the potential organizers from the Pseudokarst Commission of the Czech Speleological Society and the Institute of Geonics AS CR in Brno, in agreement with the Austrian organizers from the Austrian Speleological Society and the Museum of Natural History in Vienna.

The discussion on the meeting's organization will be coordinated by the functionaries of the Commission and should be concluded by the end of this year.

2. The next (24th) issue of the Pseudokarst Newsletter should be published before the end of this year, therefore the deadline for the submission of manuscripts would be November 2013. The manuscripts should be sent to Jan Urban.

ITEM 6

a. The problem of scientific definition of the term "pseudokarst" and the possibility of change of Commission's name was raised by the paper by R. Eberhard and Ch. Sharples: "Appropriate terminology for karst-like phenomena: the problem with 'pseudokarst'", which was recently published in the International Journal of Speleology.

The authors proposed to avoid and displace the term "pseudokarst" in the scientific publications, because it ignored principles of classification, logical naming conventions and geomorphologic terminology.

The problem was discussed by J. Urban, J.P. van der Pas, R. Pavuza, H. Simmert, Ch. Self, L. Gaál and H. de Swart, who generally agreed that "pseudokarst" is not well defined and should not be used as the genetic term describing the types of caves.

However, this term has principal historical meaning and could be used as a motto for scientists and hobbyists studying/exploring non-karst caves. Consequently, the participants of the discussion concluded that the term "pseudokarst" is a very suitable and appropriate name for the Commission.

b. The classification of non-karstic caves, as a progressive step in our understanding of "pseudokarst", was the last problem considered by participants of the meeting. The following measures were decided:

1. P. Bella and L. Gaál would prepare a proposal of such a classification (on the basis of their paper "Genetic types of non-solution caves", Proc. 16th ICS, Brno, 2013, vol. 3: 237-242) containing the names, definitions, descriptions of features, examples of cave types.

2. This proposal would be sent to the members of the Pseudokarst Commission, as well as to the representatives of the Volcanic Caves Commission (J.P. van der Pas), the Artificial Cavities Commission (M. Parise) and the Glacier, Firn and Ice Caves Commission (V. Maggi) for the discussion and supplementation.

3. The verified and supplemented paper, authorized by the main authors (P. Bella, L. Gaál) and other authors making significant contributions to it, will be presented at the 13th International Pseudokarst Symposium in 2015.

4. After recommendation of the Commission, the paper will be published in the International Journal of Speleology.

ITEM 7

The participants of the meeting, who had not been members of the Pseudokarst Commission, yet, were asked to join it.

In particular, P. Bella (Slovakia), as a future author of the classification of non-karst caves, was invited to become the Commission member.

ACTIVITY REPORT 2009-2013

COMMISSION ON GLACIER, FIRN, AND ICE CAVES

By Valter MAGGI (Italy), President
valter.maggi@unimib.it



Eisriesenwelt Ice Cave, Austria

<http://www.eisriesenwelt.at/en/the-cave.html>

The Commission met on Tuesday 23 July 2013, Hall D, from 10:00 to 12:00, during the 16th UIS Congress. Around 15 people attended.

AGENDA

1. Goals of the Commission until the International Congress of Speleology in 2017
2. The new structure of the Commission
3. President and Vice-Presidents
4. How to improve the Commission's activities
5. Cave databases
6. The website
7. The annual newsletter
8. Contact with other UIS Commissions, Societies, Speleo groups, and groups outside the UIS
9. Cave projects (scientific/exploration)
10. Conferences, workshops, meetings, reunions
11. Other

GOALS OF THE COMMISSION UNTIL THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SPELEOLOGY IN 2017

The Commission members approved the following goals:

- A. Understand the mechanism of formation and evolution of ice caves and glacier caves.
- B. Evaluate the relationship of ice caves and glacier caves with climate change.
- C. Recover information on the geographic and topographic dispersion of ice caves and glacier caves.
- D. Provide future scenarios of ice caves and glacier caves.

E. Help in the protection and conservation of ice and caves and glacier caves.

THE NEW STRUCTURE OF THE COMMISSION

Because of the complexity of the commission topics and the diversity of the environments, the commission divided the commission's task into two working groups:

A. Ice Caves (carbonate, gypsum, volcanic, other rocks)

B. Glacier Caves (glaciers, ice caps, nevee)

This will improve collaboration inside the different branch of the disciplines. Ice caves are more related to the geometry and topography of the voids in the rocks, cave microclimate and external meteorological climate.

Glacier caves are more related to the ice flow and glacier dynamics and hydrodynamics of melting waters.

Both the working groups must define a work program for the next 4 years, preferably with annual goals, and prepare an annual report for the Commission with information about the progress of their activities.

Both working groups can define an internal structure if necessary.

PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS

The Commission members approved the following officers:

President

Valter Maggi - valter.maggi@unimib.it
 Earth and Environmental Sciences Dept.
 University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy

Vice President and Chair of Ice Caves WG

Aurel Persoiu - aurel.persoiu@gmail.com
 Faculty of History and Geography
 Stefan del Mare University of Suceava, Romania

Vice President and Chair of Glacier Caves WG

Bulat Mavlyudov - bulatrm@bk.ru
 Institute of Geography - Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russian Federation

HOW TO IMPROVE THE COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES

The Commission members discussed and approved the following actions:

A) Strengthen relationships between commission members.

a) The two working groups will create a strong community working on each topic.

b) Improve a mailing list for contacts.

c) Sharing of information within and between the working groups on their activities.

B) Exchange of information, work and results.

a) For the next 4 years, it is important to globally know and share information on ice caves and glacier caves.

b) Gather information from the previous International Congresses of Speleology and Commission proceedings.

C) Create two databases of known ice caves and studied glacier caves.

D) Improve contacts with other countries not yet included in the Commission.

E) Annual report of the activities on ice and glacier caves for each country.

CAVE DATABASES

The Commission members discussed and approved the following:

A) Ice caves are spread around the world, in all the “speleo” medium, carbonate, gypsum, lava tubes, and artificial cavities, originated by natural and anthropogenic mechanisms.

Permanent natural underground ice deposits can be related to the past climates, recent climate change, and geographic distribution and topographic positions. These factors will be useful for developing genetic models of where cave is may be found. The commission will provide a simple distribution of permanent ice caves, which will be important for future studies and UIS purposes.

B) Glacial caves are ephemeral caves, opening in glaciers and nevee. Their origins are mainly related to ice flows, glacier dynamics and glacier hydrological settings, and their existence is seasonal and easily closed by ice. The Commission will develop a database of studied and explored glaciers with caves.

By 2017, the Commission will prepare a database, as large as possible, with the main information:

- Country/region
- Name of cave/glacier
- Massif
- Depth of ice deposits/depth of cave
- Geographic coordinate
- Reference people/group/paper.

The main goal is place the caves on the Google Earth (or similar) web map. A small data-sheet will be prepared with the most important information about the caves.

There was discussion on the rising the problem of publishing geographical coordinates of caves. The idea is for the Commission to start by creating the databases and filling them with whatever information can be found. Eventually, low-resolution geographic coordinates for the caves can be publically used to protect them. It is important to maintain open contact with each country’s UIS national representatives for collecting data to include in the databases.

THE WEBSITE

The Commission members approved the following website plan:

A) A website will be created to inform all members about Commission activities.

B) The website will provide access to the databases, documentation related to the Commission, and links to projects, activities, conferences, and workshops.

C) The website will be became an instrument to inform researchers, groups and other people interested in the Commission’s goals and activities.

D) An official Commission e-mail address will be established.

THE ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

The Commission members approved an annual newsletter for the following purposes:

A. To collect the most important information and news from the Commission that will only be summarized on the web site.

B. The difference with the website is that the newsletter will include comments from Commission members, particular reports, and all information that will be useful and informative to the UIS community.

CAVE PROJECTS (SCIENTIFIC/EXPLORATION)

The Commission members approve the following:

The Commission will provide a forum for sharing information on ice cave and glacier cave projects in progress and the future projects, both scientific and for explorations, and to help with communication between different groups with the same aims.

CONTACT WITH OTHER UIS COMMISSIONS, SOCIETIES, SPELEO GROUPS, AND GROUPS OUTSIDE THE UIS

The Commission members approved the following: Ice caves and glacier caves are related to the activities of other UIS commissions. For this reason, we need to improve the collaboration with other commissions and entities over the next four years. For example:

- Artificial Cavities Commission.
- Volcanic Caves Commission.
- Department of Karst and Cave Protection.
- International Show Caves Association

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, MEETINGS, REUNIONS

The Commission members announced the following conference information:

The proceedings of the Fifth International Workshop on Ice Caves (IWIC-V), hosted in Italy in September 2012, will be published on-line in January 2014.

In the next 4 years many conferences, workshops, meetings and reunion will occur. Some of those specific to ice caves and glacier caves are:

- INTEGRATED USE OF PROTECTION OF UNDERGROUND SPACES (*Kungur, Perm Region, Russia, 26-31 May 2014*)
- SIXTH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ICE CAVES (IWIC VI) - (*Idaho Falls, Idaho, USA, 17-22 August 2014*)
- SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ICE CAVES (IWIC VI) (*Postojna, Slovenia, May or September 2016*)

OTHER

Acronym of the Commission will be: **GLAFIC**.
To be decided by e-mail



ACTIVITY REPORT 2009-2013

COMMISSION ON CAVE MINERALOGY

By Prof. Ph.D Bogdan P. ONAC (Romania)
bonac@bioge.ubbcluj.ro



Naica Cave giant crystals in Mexico
<https://www.google.com/search?q=cave%20mineralogy&tbn=isch>

Over the last 4 years, between the two congresses, the Cave Mineralogy (CM) Commission focused on generating the Cave Minerals Data Base (CAMIDA), which is a collaborative project of the University of South Florida Libraries, UIS's Cave Minerals Commission, the Karst Information Portal, Emil Racoviță Institute of Speleology (Romania), and the Karst Research Group at the University of South Florida.

CAMIDA is an open-access collection of geological, mineralogical, crystallographical, and protection/conservation information on all minerals discovered in caves around the world.

The website is:

<http://caveminerals.rc.usf.edu/node?destination=node>.

A number of cave mineralogists and other scientists are involved in populating the database with the minerals they discovered/described over the years. Those who want to contribute to CAMIDA will need to contact Bogdan Onac to receive a user name and password to access the website from which the information can be added to the database.

A major accomplishment of the Cave Minerals Commission was that some of its members organized a special session during the 20th International Mineralogical Association (IMA) Congress in Budapest (Hungary) (August 2010). It was the first time that IMA included in its program a CM-devoted oral and poster session. A 5-day pre-congress field trip was organized in Romania.

The current goal of the CM Commission is to finalize the database by the time of the next congress in Australia. It was also suggested that its members become more aggressive in promoting cave minerals via scientific publications in mainstream journals.

For more information about the commission, contact its President:

Bogdan P. Onac, PhD
 School of Geosciences-
 University of South Florida
 4202 E. Fowler Ave., NES 107 - Tampa, FL 33620
 Phone: +813-974-1067



ACTIVITY REPORT

COMMISSION PERMANENTE DE SPÉLÉOTHÉRAPIE

By MSRII, Dr.b., Ph.D. Iuri Simionca, B.D., Pr. Immunologist (Romania), President
simionca_iuri@yahoo.com



Welcome greetings from PhD. Iuri Simionca during the XIV International Symposium of Speleotherapy, Turda, Romania, 2012

Honorary President

Svetozar DLUHOLUCKY, Slovakia

President

Iuri SIMIONCA, Romania

Vicepresidents

Jaroslav CHONKA, Ukraine
 Pavel SLAVÍK, Czech Republic

Responsible Secretary

Ovidiu MERA, Romania

Principal Advisor Responsible Secretary

Vanja DEBEVEC, Slovenia

Advisor Secretary

Constantin MUNTEANU, Romania

Ordinary Secretary

Magdalena KOSTRZON, Poland

Speleotherapy Repository/Library Responsible

Vladimir SVOZIL, Czech Republic

Custodian

Oldrich NAVRATIL, Czech Republic

Bibliography and Website Responsible

Mihail HOTETEU, Romania

Bibliography Ordinary Member/Advisor

Marta HAISAK, Ukraine

Working Group:

Speleotherapy in Salt Mines and Salt Chambers

Chairman: Jaroslav CHONKA, Ukraine

Members

Iuri SIMIONCA, Romania
 Ovidiu MERA, Romania

Advisor Members

Nicholai GRUDNICKI, Romania
 Ioan IETCU, Romania
 Claudia BILHA, Romania
 Jakub CERVINSKI, Poland
 Jan KUBAS, Poland
 Krzysztof CZARNOBILSKY, Poland

Working Subgroup in Halotherapy (Speleotherapy in Artificial Salt Chambers)

Pavel P. GORBENKO, Russia
 Ivan S. LEMKO, Ukraine

Working Group: Assessment of potentially curative underground environment in caves, mines and other artificial spaces; measurement techniques

Chairman: Iuri SIMIONCA, Romania

Members

Rudolf PAVUZA, Austria
 Peter JOVANOVIĆ, Slovenia
 Liviu ENACHE, Romania

Advisor Member

Maria Romeo CALIN, Romania

Notes (from the Editor)

The above information constitutes an upgrade of the original report as per informed by Commission's President in December 2013.

Description and clarification regarding of the Board on the Permanent Commission of Speleotherapy, Commission Permanente de Spéléothérapie-UIS (PCS/CPS-UIS) proposed and voted on the Meeting of PCS/CPS-UIS at 4 October 2012, Turda, Romania and voted at The XIVth International Symposium of Speleotherapy in October 6, 2012, Turda, Romania, with changes and corrections in 2013 (at the Permanent Commission of Speleotherapy/ Commission Permanente de Spéléothérapie (PCS/CPS-UIS) meetings, from 14-15 March 2013, held in Wieliczka Health Resort, Poland, and from July 26, 2013 in Brno, at 16th International Congress of Speleology)

Synthesis report of the UIS Permanent Commission on Speleotherapy-Commission Permanente de Spéléothérapie (PCS/CPS-UIS) Meeting (Brno, 2013) and planned activities for the next four years.

I) Proposals for activity PCS/CPS-UIS voted at the Meeting of the PCS/CPS-UIS in 4 October 2012, Turda, Romania, and at the "XIVth International Symposium of Speleotherapy" in October 6, 2012, Turda, Romania, after evaluating past activities and future challenges (*Glossing Document and Synthesis Report of the "XIVth International Symposium of Speleotherapy", Turda, Romania, 2012, October 4-6, organized by Speleotherapy (PCS)/Commission Permanente de Spéléothérapie (CPS)-Department of Research/Département de la recherche scientifique-Union Internationale de Spéléologie/International Union of Speleology (UIS)*):

1. Supporting the national commissions of speleotherapy activities in different countries.
2. Sustaining for the establishment of national commissions of speleotherapy in those countries where there are opportunities for developing of speleotherapy.
3. Founding by PCS / CPS – UIS the "International Society of Speleotherapy Centers" (proposed by Iuri Simionca, supported by motivations and other additional proposals by Jaroslav Chonka, Ovidiu Mera and Pavel Slavik), development statute, opening financial account and registration.
4. Achieving proposals for supplementing UIS Statute with elements of the PCS/CPS activity in Speleotherapy field.
5. Completing the structure PCS/CPS with working groups for different activities in Speleotherapy.
6. Supporting the achievement of some proposals for standards specific to Speleotherapy domain and descending methods.
7. Evaluation of Speleotherapy in several centers and supporting the development of them.
8. International certification of Speleotherapy Centers.
9. Supporting of qualification and continuing education of the specialists from Speleotherapy centers.
10. Opening a bank account of PCS/CPS in one of the countries with members of the Permanent Commission on Speleotherapy.
11. Founding of the "Journal of speleotherapy and descending methods". Preparation and justification of the proposal to publish a yearly supplement in "The Journal of Speleology" – UIS for articles in speleotherapy domain.
12. Supporting the authors published abstracts and presented the materials at the XIVth ISS for publication of articles in national and international journals.

13. Founding group of bibliography and documentation in domain of speleotherapy and collaboration with BBS - UIS.

14. Enlarging website <http://speleotherapycommission.webgarden.com> for information of the PCS/CPS activity.

15. Achievement of cooperation agreements with various national and international professional societies in order to develop speleotherapy field and descending methods.

II) Completions on the work of the PCS/CPS-UIS (Resolution of the meeting of the Permanent Commission on Speleotherapy / Commission Permanente de Spéléothérapie - UIS (PCS/CPS-UIS) from 14-15 Mars 2013, held in Wieliczka Health Resort, Poland):

1. Will be made the list with the necessary studies to evaluation of the speleotherapy centers for accreditation by the PCS/CPS-UIS.

2. The PCS/CPS-UIS recommend that the speleotherapy and halotherapy centers to organize the making of necessary studies for establish methodological recommendations, indications and contraindications.

3. Will be prepared a new variant of the PCS/CPS-UIS Statutes (or Activity Reglementations) which later will be discussed with the UIS Vice-President George Veni (USA) and also with the members of PCS/CPS-UIS.

4. It is created "The International Association of Speleotherapy" which will be formed by specialists in speleotherapy and/or halotherapy and from speleo- and halotherapy centers.

5. It is established the apparition of electronic form of the PCS/CPS-UIS Bibliography Bulletin and plain paper printing of this. We recommend to Speleotherapy centers and commission members to transfer the existing bibliography dates in electronic form for integration of them in a unitary database. Contact: hotetetu@yahoo.com

III) Synthesis Report of participation at the sessions of the 16th ICS and of the PCS/CPS- UIS Meeting (Brno, 2013):

In the context of the 16th International Congress of Speleology, Brno, Czech Republic, 2013, July 2028, were announced following activities with participation of Permanent Commission on Speleotherapy board and active members from different countries:

Sunday, July 21, 2013,

12:00 – 16:00

Pavilion A/ Rotunda

The First UIS General Assembly

Participant at First UIS General Assembly, the MD Pavel Slavik (Czech Republic) - Vice President PCS/CPS-UIS.

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Session 13OT1: Other Topics: merged with Session 11. Medicine, Philosophy, Social Aspects and Session 12. Extraterrestrial Karst; Congress Centre/Hall B,

Scientific Communications for Medicine (Speleotherapy and Halotherapy):

10:40-11:00 - STUDY OF PULMONARY FUNCTIONS OF TOURIST GUIDES IN THE CAVES - Vanja Debevec, Peter Jovanovič.

11:00-11:20 - HALOTHERAPY AND HALO HEALTH IMPROVEMENT - Pavel Gorbenko, Konstantin Gorbenko.

11:20-11:40 - BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF THE THERAPEUTIC PROPERTIES OF SALT MINES - Constantin Munteanu, Diana Munteanu, Iuri Simionca, Mihai Hoteteu, Delia Cinteza, Horia Lazarescu.

Friday, July 26, 2013

14:00 - 16:00 - Congress Centre/Hall B,

Meeting of PCS/CPS-UIS titled "Speleotherapy status and perspectives of development".

Participation in various manifestations during the 16th International Congress of Speleology, Brno, 2013:
 - Sessions (July 22-27, 2013)
 - Meeting and participate in discussions with President UIS and Secretary General UIS (July 26, 2013)
 - The Second UIS General Assembly and Closing Ceremony.

IV) Synthesis Report about the Meeting of PCS/CPS-UIS titled "Speleotherapy status and perspectives of development", Friday, July 26, 2013, 14:00-16:00, Congress Centre / Hall B, during the 16th International Congress of Speleology, Brno, Czech Republic, 2013, July 20-28:

Friday, July 26, 2013

14:00-16:00 - Congress Centre/Hall B,

Meeting of PCS/CPS-UIS titled "Speleotherapy status and perspectives of development" according with the proposed following agenda:

1 - Speleotherapy and halotherapy status and prospects of development in Ukraine, Belarus, Czech Republic, Slovakia (communication 15 min., questions / answers, 10 min.) - Ph.D., M.D. Jaroslav Chonka (Ukraine), MUDr. Pavel Slavik (Czech Republic) - Vice-Presidents PCS / CPS-UIS; Dr. Vladimir

Svozil (Czech Republic) - Speleotherapy Repository/Library PCS/CPS-UIS.

2 - Speleotherapy status and development perspectives in some mines and caves from Romania. About Speleotherapy in Poland, Austria, Germany (communication 10 min., questions / answers, 5 min.) - MSRII, Dr.b., Ph.D. Iuri Simionca (Romania), President PCS/CPS-UIS; Ph.D., M.D. Jaroslav Chonka (Ukraine), MU Dr. Pavel Slavik (Czech Republic) - Vice-Presidents PCS/CPS-UIS.

3 - Haloaerosoltherapy – artificial analogy of Speleotherapy: curative and prophylactic use (Lecture, 15 min., questions / answers, 10 min.) – Prof., Dr. Ivan Lemko (Ukraine), Advisor Member of WSG in Halotherapy - framed in WG 1 "Speleotherapy in salt mines and salt chambers" – PCS/CPS - UIS; Prof., Dr. Olha Lemko; Ph.D. Margarita Haysak (Ukraine), Bibliography Advisor – PCS/CPS - UIS.

4 - Regarding the practical implementation of the XIVth International Symposium of Speleotherapy, Tuda, 2012 and Working Meeting, Weliczka, 2013 (Closing Document of the XIVth International Symposium of Speleotherapy-PCS/CPS-UIS, 2012, Tuda, Romania. Synthesis Report of the Scientific Meeting, organized by the PCS/CPS-UIS;

Resolution of the working meeting of the PCS/CPS-UIS from 14-15 mars 2013, held in Wieliczka Health Resort, Poland). About the planning of the XV International Symposium of Speleotherapy - MSRII, Dr.b., Ph.D. Iuri Simionca, President PCS / CPS-UIS; Ph.D. M.D. Jaroslav Chonka, MUDr. Pavel Slavik - Vice-Presidents PCS/CPS-UIS.

5 - Haloaerosoltherapy – artificial analogy of speleotherapy: curative and prophylactic use (Report, 15 min., questions/answers, 10 min.) – Prof., Dr. Ivan Lemko (Ukraine), Advisor Member of WSG in halotherapy - framed in WG 1 "Speleotherapy in salt mines and salt chambers" – PCS/CPS - UIS; Prof., Dr. Olha Lemko; Ph.D. Margarita Haysak (Ukraine), Bibliography Advisor – PCS/CPS-UIS.

6 - Words of greeting, questions and answers - Ph.D. George Veni, Vice-President UIS

7 - Planning joint cooperation activities of PCS/CPS- UIS with other Commissions UIS. Closing Document of Meeting.

Resolution of the PCS/CPS-UIS meeting titled "Speleotherapy status and perspectives of development", from July, 26, 2013, Brno (at the 16th International Congress of Speleology, Brno, Czech Republic, 2013, July 20-28:

1 - ACTIVITY REPORT OF UIS PERMANENT COMMISSION ON SPELEOTHERAPY/COMMISSION PERMANENTE DE SPÉLÉOTHÉRAPIE (PCS/CPS-

-UIS), 18 pag., signed of actual President – Simionca Iuri, and Past President Slavik Pavel presented to ASSEMBLY at the 16th International Congress of Speleology, Brno, Czech Republic, 2013, July 20-28, to George VENI, Vice-President UIS of Administration, Fadi NADER General Secretary of UIS and participant of PCS/CPS-UIS Meeting titled “Speleotherapy status and perspectives of development”(Brno, 2013).

2 - The practical implementation of the activities proposed at the XIVth International Symposium of Speleotherapy, Tuda, 2012 and Working Meeting, Wieliczka, 2013 (Closing Document of the XIVth International Symposium of Speleotherapy – PCS/CPS-UIS, 2012, Tuda, Romania and Synthesis Report of the Scientific Meeting, organized by the PCS/CPS-UIS and Resolution of the working meeting of the PCS/CPS-UIS from 14-15 Mars 2013, held in Wieliczka Health Resort, Poland.

3 - The preparation of preliminary information concerning the status of medical use of caves and mines in different countries and evaluation of next speleotherapeutical centers.

4 - For the evaluation (reglementation) of the underground structures (salt mines or others origins and caves with curative properties) utilization status in medical purposes in Czech Republic, request to the competent medical authorities of Czech Republic for an answer concerning the opinion about the use of underground structures (caves or mines with curative properties) for medical purposes, taking into account that in the Law 164/2001 (Balneary Law), where is written in “Hlava VI, Přírodní léčebné lázně a lázeňská místa v § 25 Podmínky pro stanovení přírodních léčebných lázní odst.(2)”, for the areas with climatical conditions according to part 1 takes not a underground spaces.

5 - At the proposal and the justification made by the Dr. Chonca Jaroslav, Director of Ukrainian Allergic Hospital and Vice President PCS/CPS-UIS, the Board of the PCS/CPS-UIS agrees that the Scientific-Practical Conference with International Participation “Perspectives of Speleotherapy Recovery and Salt Extraction Based on Rock Salt Deposits in the village of Solotvino, Tyachiv district, Transcarpathian region”, Ukraine, which is to take place in locality Solotvino, in October (or November) 2013, to be organized under the aegis of the PCS/CPS-UIS. In order to discuss the possibility of reviving of Speleotherapy in Solotvino, during the conference, is proposed organize a round table with the involvement local decision makers.

6 - At the component of Speleotherapy Commission the PCS/CPS-UIS proposed and voted on the meeting of the PCS/CPS-UIS at 4 October 2012, Turda, Romania and voted at the XIVth International

Symposium of Speleotherapy in October 6, 2012, Turda, Romania, shall be approved the amendments and completions made according to “The Resolution of the Permanent Commission of Speleotherapy/Commission Permanente de Speleoterapie (PCS/CPS-UIS) meeting, from 14-15 Mars 2013, held in Wieliczka Health Resort, Poland” and “The Resolution of the Permanent Commission of Speleotherapy/Commission Permanente de Spéléothérapie (PCS/CPS-UIS) meeting, from July 26, 2013 in Brno (at 16th International Congress of Speleology)”. They is final version of on next four years presented in Annex 1 and 2 (Permanent Commission on Speleotherapy/Commission Permanente de Speleotherapy (PCS/CPS-UIS).

7. Among the objectives of the PCS/CPS-UIS to note the value and actuality for the next four years:

- Lack of technical and medical standards for use in medical/speleotherapeutic and of Balneoclimatic tourism some caves and mines (mainly salt mines, and other mines) and for Halotherapy - the surface rooms with salt mine underground artificial environment or underground salt mine microclimate;

- Need for monitoring standards of geomechanical stability of the underground spaces in caves and mines which possesses speleotherapeutic factors and used for medical purposes. Balneoclimatic tourism or speleo- and salt mine tourism;

- Lack of monitoring standards for curative properties of some caves and mines (including salt mines), assessing their stability and therapeutic effectiveness, particularly after using for cave or salt mine tourism and medical Balneoclimatic tourism or Speleotherapy (after human impact);

- Adequate measures for preserving / restoring the specific underground environmental factors in karst caves and salt mines (or in other cavity);

- The necessity of approaching and launching at national level of researches on methodologies regarding speleotherapy, related to the presence and the quality of underground therapeutic factors and to the medical history of the patients (age, disease status, previous medication, especially the hormonal therapy).

These issues could build up a development program of speleotherapy and descending methods used in medical purposes, for Balneoclimatic tourism, caves or salt mines tourism over a period of several years, which would involve increasing the quality of human life.

ACTIVITY REPORT 2009-2012

COMMISSION ON CAVE RESCUE

By Christian DODELIN (France), President
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Cave Rescue Commission practice during the International Cave Rescue Seminar in 2012

A team of the Cave Rescue Commission, with cavers from different continents, allow giving information and organizing different formations.

1. Efraín Mercado (Puerto Rico), for South America and the Caribbean
2. Joe Sydney (Australia), for Oceania
3. Badr Jabbour Gedeon (Lebanon), for countries of Minor Asia
4. Satoshi Goto (Japan), for Asia
5. Christian Dodelin (France), for Europa

The history of the commission is the job of Gyula Hegedüs (Hungary), after the death of Bernard Urbain (Belgium). We keep the memory of Bernard Urbain who died at the end of July 2011 by a cancer. We wrote several articles publishing in « Regard » of Belgium, « Il Soccorso Alpino Spéléo soccorso » n° of December 2011 (p46-47) for Italia, in the publication Spelunca of France, in the UIS bulletin and in the publication of cave rescue in Hungary. Stanislas Glazar (Slovenia) organizes the website of the commission since two years. The website is inside those of UIS.

CONGRESS – MEETINGS

Between the two congress UIS (2009 in Texas and 2013 in Czech Republic), the commission organized from 8 to 15 May 2011 its 12th meeting at Dryanovo in Bulgaria. With more of 100 participants came from 15 different countries, this 12th meeting held its promises, mixing conviviality, communications and demonstrations of quality. The natural site chosen put us in underground climate with caves, canyon, and rivers, but also in history of the country with many traditions. The

country occupied and get an important place in Europe.

Among the important moments, I choose communications: the search in USA about that we called the « Harness syndrome », the good option in real rescue in 2010 in Bulgaria with spectacular means for safe people trapped when the water levels grow up, the search on hypothermia and several reports of common formations concerning several countries. We appreciated the report concerning cave rescue operation with help of different countries. Help also from cavers during earthquake operation in Italy. Four divers of SSF, France, brought the material for demonstration with the diving stretcher. After they organized a short training in diving for Bulgarian divers.

In Mexico, at Taxco, the first cave rescue meeting was organized by ERM (Espeleo Rescate México) the 5 and 6 December 2010. Since ten years ago, the cave rescue in México was organized after 3 cave rescue training organized by the SSF (spéléo secours français). In this occasion, a double training took place with SSF for the leader of cave rescue (Technical advisor).

BIRTHDAY: 50 YEARS OF CAVE RESCUE OF HUNGARY - APRIL 29, 2011, IN BUDAPEST

It was the occasion to meet the Dr. Denes. He was the first president of cave rescue of Hungary and one of foundation members of international cave rescue. The Ministry of safety in Hungary was present; then Horvath Richard, the last president of cave rescue of Hungary and another rescuer, Feigel Lorand, brought a personal report like a rescuers. The new president of cave rescue of Hungary, Tamas Tarnai organized this ceremony.

We knew other cave rescue meetings during these four years, in Australia, in Lebanon, in the Balkans, in Europa with the meeting concerning the countries of Alpine karst.

MEETINGS OF COUNTRIES OF ALPINE KARST

Each country brings its means and organizations about the subject. If the leaders of cave rescue are present, the specialized cavers came and bring communications and presentations on the different matters to be discussed. When we started, the present countries were: Germany (Munich), Austria (Salzburg), Croatia, France, Italy, Slovenia, Switzerland. At the meeting organized by Italy, the invitations were open at other countries. Then we received Greece, Hungary, Romania, United Kingdom; then in

2011 Serbia, Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro.

In 2009 at Treviso in Italy, the subject was underground communications, radio, telephones. A time is dedicated to discuss about the creation of a European cave rescue and get a Website.

In 2010 near Salzburg in Austria, the subject was medical. Since this meeting, the doctors get an organization. They come the next years to continue the exchanges and discuss about the pathologies and medical specific assistance concerning the different subjects. A DVD is available containing all the medical communications.

The 5th. Cave Rescue Meeting of alpine karsts countries was at Starigrad Paklenica, Croatia; from 15 to 18 September 2011. The principal subject was techniques and tests the material and the cave rescue techniques.

We test outside different situations to see and measure what happen if anchorage is broken or if the rope of Tyrolean is broken. A film is available on these tests.

We got a presentation in room and demonstration outside about new means of communication TPS: Nicola 3 by England, Pimprenelle by France and a similar version like a fax by Switzerland.

The 6° cave rescue meeting of alpine karsts countries in Jura at Chatel de Joux from 18 to 21 October 2012, France, the subject was rescue diving and moving obstruction with explosive technique. We have communications and demonstrations outside on lake. Then we saw the different aspects of cave rescue techniques. The administrative aspect was in 2008 at Munich in Germany.

TECHNIQUE RESEARCH

The underground communications the radio system with transmission radio by the ground become a numeric version with an English manufacture and other, French. The two versions are compatibles and the connections with the anterior versions are possible.

With a new material by the Switzerland cavers, we can have a communication with a caver. The possibilities by the ground are less than with the vocal TPS.

The diving light stretcher done by France was tested at 60 meters deep and more than one kilometer long. It was a presentation in Bulgaria during the meeting of 2011.

TECHNIQUE AND WORLD RECORD

The Tyrolean the longer in the world, with a rope of 10,5mm of diameter since 2008, was installed in Vercors (France), with 1 km 100 m.

We get a new record in 2013 at Millau in France. In the same conditions, the rope allowed passing from Causse to another with 2 km 205m long and 386 m deep in 2 minutes for 250 cavers presents for the birthday 50 years of the French Federation of Speleology. The initial tension of the rope was 500 DaN and this tension grow up 600 DaN for each pas-

sage. This show the good material and good techniques we have in rescue. We install the system like in cave rescue situation.

FORMATIONS

If numerous countries organize trainings for their teams, other formations are concerning several countries or international trainings are open at all.

France organized since 1997 international trainings every two years. The international training of 2010 was in Alpes in Savoie with cavers of Spain, Slovenia, and Croatia. We had in the same time and site: the technique training, managing rescue, assistance victim, diving, radio communication, moving obstruction with explosive. A common exercise was for all, more than 100 rescuers.

The international training of 2012 was in Pyrénées Atlantiques for 40 cavers of France, Spain, Ireland, Portugal, and Czech Republic.

Slovenia in 2010 for 4 years is in charge of the project Proteus. Slovenia obtained European help for this formation in cave rescue project for Balkan countries. The civil protection organizations choose and send two people by country for the formation each year. The first edition was in Bulgaria in 2010, in Macedonia in 2011, in Slovenia in 2012 and in Croatia in 2013. The civil protection organizations do not send always cavers to these formations. Therefore, two trainings were organized in the same time. For the Slovenian training, the SSF (Spéléo Secours Français) realized the formation for the cavers. It will be the same in Croatia in 2013.

The SSF will be present in the same conditions at the training that will be in September 2013 in Croatia.

The SSF (Spéléo Secours Français) answered each years at three or four formations in different countries:

Trainings in Brazil: Each year, a training is organized for 50 people who come from different caving organizations and different States of Brazil. The management is done with Brazilian cavers and we take in consideration the country organization. Therefore, firefighters are included in these formations and we use their installations for logistic aspects.

In 2009 the training was 10 to 21 April for 52 trainee and 4 instructors come from France. Two theory sessions were at Belo Horizonte and Sao Paulo, and then the practice in cave was in the "Intervales Park".

In 2010, from 2 to 12 October they were 32 trainees at Belo Horizonte. In 2011 and 2012, these trainings were with 50 trainees.

Training in Turkey at Bursa: 2-3-4 October 2010 for 35 trainees who come from different clubs of the new Turkish Federation.

From 4 to 10 April 2012 cave rescue training in Lebanon concerning 40 cavers from all the caving clubs of Lebanon and one caver from South Arabia. It is a first step for cave rescue organization in the country.

The first training in Iran from 10 to 17 November was at Polour after than we are sure that all the

groups of cavers can participate. We received also members of Red Croissant. Christian Dodelin and Bernard Tourte did the managing of this training for 30 trainees. The activities and teaching techniques were inside a gymnasium because we had 1 meter of snow. We could not go on cliff or in cave like the one, we hope.

We start collaboration with the Check Republic with a meeting the 26, 27 and 28 September 2011 at Rudice near Brno. It continues with a great participation of Check cavers at the international cave rescue training in 2012. We will organize a medical session just after the congress UIS of Brno 29-30-31 July 2013. A cave rescue training will be organized by SSF in November 2013 at Rudice for the national team of rescue.

We did formation of Technical advisers for two countries. The first was in 2009 in Romania, and the second in 2010 at Mexico.

For each situation of technical advisor training, it is necessary to put in place two trainings in the same time. The technical advisor for managing situations inside the caves uses the basic training for the rescuers.

For the managing of these two trainings the SSF send 3 managers (1 for the technique training and 2 for the other).

The training in Romania was from 2 to 11 October 2009. They were 8 trainees in the technical advisor training and 20 trainees for the basic caving rescue training. The training in Mexico was from 5 to 11 December 2010. It received 32 technical advisor trainees and 27 evacuation participants.

We manage a formation about moving obstructions using micro explosives in October 2009 in Spain (Pays Basque) for 15 trainees of Spain cave rescue organization. It was managing by SSF (Spéléo Secours Français).

For all these formations during these four years, we have: 16 trainings of cave rescue for 508 cavers from 17 countries.

Other countries bring their contributions for the rescue formations. It was the case in 2012 when Bulgaria managed training in Tunisia. We would like receive the projects and reports of these formations. For those we organized it was a report. It is possible to find them in the website of SSF (Spéléo Secours Français) and soon in the website of the UIS commission of rescue. In 2013 will be 4 training managing by the SSF in Croatia, Brazil and Check Republic.



ACTIVITY REPORT

COMMISSION ON LONG, DEEP AND LARGE CAVES

Coordinators: Pat KAMBESIS (USA) - pat.kambesis@wku.edu Andy EAVIS (UK) - andy@andyeavis.com



Patricia Kambesis (USA) in Rio Tanamá, Puerto Rico

The meeting of the Commission on Long, Deep and Large Caves met on July 25, 2013 at the ICS in Brno. The purpose of the meeting was to redefine the goals of the Commission. The first order of business was to revise the name of the Commission to include "large" caves. The overall goals of the Commission include:

1. Manage metadata on caves, such as longest, deepest, largest, etc. and other metrics to describe caves, parts of caves, density of caves within a region and possibly in-cave features.

2. Determine which measurements and metrics are important and what standards do we set for these measurements

and metric.

3. The Commission would serve as a clearinghouse for the data and information on long, deep and large caves not only on a global scale but also by country.

4. Provide links and connections to the groups doing the work on the ground.

5. Determine and implement the best methods for making the information available.

The Commission's priority is to review existing metrics and standards on cave parameters and using that information to establish Commission metrics and standards.



ACTIVITY REPORT 2009-2013

DEPARTMENT OF PROTECTION OF KARST AND CAVES

By Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS (Belgium), President

jp.bartholeyns@gmail.com



Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS (Belgium)

RETROACTIV AND OBJECTIVES

The responsibility of the Department of Protection and Management has been entrusted to me in 1997 at the Congress of La Chaux-de-Fonds in Switzerland to succeed its founder, France HABE.

This gradually led me to be more frequent contact with the leaders of the UIS, organization I then discovered a little closer.

The main objective of the Department is to promote and support all efforts to protect the karst ecosystem, facilitate the exchange of experiences and information related to it by streaming via the UIS website and develop communication and contacts between the national, regional or thematic organizations interested in the protection of karst and caves.

MEMBERSHIP AND STRUCTURE

The Department is open to any interested person who wishes to invest.

Since August 2011, the department has established a Scientific Committee composed of

Jay Anderson (Australia) BADINO Giovanni (Italy), José Maria CALAFORRA (Spain), CIGNA Arrigo (Italy), David André (France), EK, Camille (Belgium), SPATE Andy (Australia) and George Veni (USA).

ACHIEVEMENTS

1 This working group reviewed the Manage-

ment the UIS Guidelines for show caves already published following the link http://www.uis-speleo.org/documents/UIS_MANAGEMENT_GUIDELINES_FOR_SHOW_CAVES.pdf of the UIS website and has completed a ninth chapter relating to public awareness.

2 He also asked the UIS Bureau to hold a contest. This is the Prize France HABE of the UIS Department of Protection of Karst and Caves.

It aims to promote the protection of karst and caves, natural heritage preserve absolutely for generations to come, as a source of information is increasingly rich in history of our planet and humanity, allowing us to act in a more thoughtful, efficient and sustainable future of our environment.

The prize, with a sum of 250 €, will be offered every four years. It will be given preference on the occasion of the second General Assembly of the International Union of Speleology (UIS) International Congress of Speleology (ICS) when it will be published at least on the website and in UIS Bulletin The contest rules are published in three languages (English, French and Spanish) on the website of the UIS.

PROJECTS

1 - Dissemination and promotion

The Department should facilitate the exchange of experiences and information relating to the protection by transmitting through the UIS website. It should also develop communication and contacts between the national, regional or thematic interested in the protection of karst and caves.

2 - A better structure

For obvious reasons of protection in the broadest sense, it is desirable that this UIS Department found its original name "Department of Protection of Karst and Caves" and no longer considers the International Show Cave Association (ISCA) as one of its commissions but as an organization associated of UIS. This partnership should be referred to another part of the website. (To be approved by the next General Assembly of the UIS).

The President is now feeling "administratively

a little lonely," it would be desirable it will be administratively more structured and includes, in addition to the Scientific Committee, a well-defined Bureau and elected at each ICS and active members with electronic voting possibility.

3 - The Department responded to several demands for support and information, it also offered its support in several instances (Trucks and Caicos, Iran, Lebanon, ...).

4 - The protection of karst and caves is an important and ongoing concern. That is why the Department wants the price Habe France can be awarded each year.

PUBLICATIONS

Over the past four years, the Department has posted

- Guidelines for the Show caves (UIS Website and other one).

- The settlement of the price Habe France in French, English and Spanish.

The Guidelines have been published in various international journals and addressed to some people,

caves and / or authorities in particular.

CONCLUSION

The Department has fulfilled its role in educating audiences and promote the Guidelines and Price Habe France.

"Protection" remains a hot topic, intense and always difficult changing.

The Department must continue to work tirelessly during next period.

THANKS

As Chairman of the Department, I am very grateful to the members of the Scientific Committee for their support, encouragement and cooperation in the pursuit of its objectives.

I would also like, on behalf of the Department, to express our thanks to Jasmina Rijavec, the UIS webmaster for her help in the rapid publication of our informations on the UIS website.



ATLAS OF KARST PHENOMENA

By Prof. Dr. Dr.h.c. Karl-Heinz Pfeffer (Germany)

prof.pfeffer@online.de

In 1960 the Karst Commission of the International Geographical Union (Chairman Herber Lehmann) published a proposal of an International Atlas of Karst Phenomena.

Three papers were published.

IGU COMMISSION OF KARST PHENOMENA

Chairman: HERBERT LEHMANN

Sheet 1: Sierra de los Organos, Cuba

LEHMANN, H., 1960

Z. Geomorph. N.F., Suppl.-Bd. 2

Sheet 2: Bosco de Cansiglio

CASTIGLIONI, G.B., 1960 Novara

Sheet 3: Nord-Puerto Rico

GERSTENHAUER, A., 1964

Erdkunde 18,

In the eighties, the Karst researchers Majorie Sweeting, Jean Nicod, Camille Ek, Hubert Trimmel, Alfred Bögli, Ugo Sauro and Karl-Heinz Pfeffer discussed the idea to reanimate the Atlas. The copyright was transmitted from IGU to UIS, and a commission was insert. All new papers should be published in sup-

plementary volumes of the Zeitschrift für Geomorphologie.

But there was a financial problem. Text and black and white figures inside the supplementary volume were free of any fees, but the maps in the attachment must be paid by authors or the authors must give

1000 copies of the printed map to the publisher. Last method was ever used form the authors, the maps were printed in the homeland of the authors. But the printing cost of the maps prohibited many maps. At least the printing cost of a 60x80 cm maps in 1000 coloured copies were round about US\$ 1.000.

When this series started in the 1960s, geomorphological aspects oriented towards basic research defined the map sheets. Now, due to changing consi-



Prof. Dr.Dr.h.c Karl-HEINZ PFEFFER
(Germany)

derations in geosciences as well as in karst research, anthropological and environmental aspects and the possible utilization of the resources in karst landscapes are in the forefront of research. International committee work of the IGU and the UIS as well as conference proceedings document this clearly. Logically, this is also shown in the new map sheets. They no longer present just classical “pure” geomorphology, but rather provide a scientific basis for ecological evaluations and usage oriented planning via geomorphology using the parameters relief, near-surface bedrock, and weathering products, as well as anthropogenic impact. These new considerations open new work fields for geomorphology with respect to environment, planning, and utilization opportunities of natural resources. This is particularly the case, since remote sensing and GIS, as well as modelling, enable reliable spatial conclusions and thus allow the planning and evaluation of impacts as well as utilization opportunities.

UIS COMMISSION INTERNATIONAL ATLAS OF KARST PHENOMENA

Chairman: KARL-HEINZ PFEFFER

Sheet 4: Audoubert-Mons JULIAN, M. & J. NICOD, 1986 Z. Geomorph. N.F., Suppl.-Bd. 59

Sheet 5: Lluc/Sierra Norte, Mallorca
 BÄR, W-F, F. FUCHS & G. NAGEL, 1986 Z. Geomorph. N.F., Suppl.-Bd. 59

Sheet 6: Werra-Meißner-Area, Northern Hesse
 STÄBLEIN, G., 1986 Z. Geomorph. N.F., Suppl.-Bd. 59

Sheet 7: Nördliche Frankenalb
 PFEFFER, K.-H., 1986 Z. Geomorph. N.F., Suppl.-Bd. 59

Sheet 8: Grands Causses, Languedoc Central
 AMBERT, P. 1990 Z. Geomorph. N.F., Suppl.-Bd. 77

Sheet 9: Antalya, Southwest Turkey
 BURGER, D., 1990 Z. Geomorph. N.F., Suppl.-Bd. 77

Sheet 10: Guilin Karst, S. China
 SWEETING, M.M., 1990 Z. Geomorph. N.F., Suppl.-Bd. 77

Sheet 11: Lluïdas Vale area, Central Jamaica
 LANDMANN, M., 1990 Z. Geomorph. N.F., Suppl.-Bd. 77

Sheet 12: Villard-de-Lans, Vercors, septentrional/France
 CATINAUD-DREAU, H., 1990 Z. Geomorph. N.F., Suppl.-Bd. 77

Sheet 13: Altopiani Ampezzani, Dolomites, Italy
 BINI, A., M. MENEGHEL & U. SAURO, 1998 Z. Geomorph. N.F., Suppl.-Bd. 109

Sheet 14: Southern Mount Hermon, Israel
 FRUMKIN, A., A.E. SHIMRON & Y. MIRON, 1998 Z. Geomorph. N.F., Suppl.-Bd. 109

Sheet 15: Montello Plateau, Southern Alps, Italy
 FERRARESE, F., U. SAURO, & C. TONELLO, 1998 Z. Geomorph. N.F., Suppl.-Bd. 109

Sheet 16: Radstädter Tauernpaß, Salzburg, Österreich
 FINK, M.H., 1998 Z. Geomorph. N.F., Suppl.-Bd. 109

Sheet 17: Ait Abdi Karst Plateau, Central High Atlas, Morocco - PERRITAZ, L., & M. MONBARON, 1998 Z. Geomorph. N.F., Suppl.-Bd. 109

Sheet 18: Austrian Northern Calcareous Alps, Salzkammergut Mountains, Laimmer, H. J., 2006 Z. Geomorph. N.F., Suppl.-Bd. 147

Sheet 19: Hochschwab plateau, Eastern Alps, Austria
 Plan, L. & Decker, K., 2006 Z. Geomorph. N.F., Suppl.-Bd. 147

Sheet 20: Oberjoch, Nördlichen Kalkalpen, Allgäuer Alpen, Germany
 BRÄKER, S. Geomorph. N.F., 2006 Z. Geomorph. N.F., Suppl.-Bd. 147

Sheet 21: Khon San, Northeast Thailand
 PFEFFER, K.-H. & YONGVANIT, S. 2006 Z. Geomorph. N.F., Suppl.-Bd. 147

Actually most karst researchers are interested in digital maps and all activities for new printed maps are not successful. Consequently the Project International Atlas of Karst Phenomena with printed maps is not contemporary in the main stream and needs a rest. There will be no further activities.

NOTE: “If anyone is interested in reorganizing this commission for digital mapping of karst, contact George Veni, UIS Vice President of Administration, gveni@nckri.org.”



COMMISSION ON MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES

By Mónica PONCE (Mexico), Latin America and Caribbean Coordinator
espeleocohauila@gmail.com

On July 26, 2013, during the celebration of the 16th. ICS in Brno, Czech Republic, a new generation of the Materials and Techniques Commission get ready for the 2013-2017 period.

This commission represents a space for the speleological community of the country members of the UIS. Here they could find out and exchange the information related to the new technologies, regional approaches and techniques utilized by of our countries. Some of the techniques and materials were already improved, enhanced or adapted. Even there are some other created in function of the national reality, based on the specific characteristics of each region.

The new committee on Materials and Techniques get new air by the addition of three new regional coordinators: Aaron BIRD (US), Monica PONCE (Mexico) and Claude BOES (Luxembourg). The objective is to share more precisely the innovations that researchers, scientists, cave explorers and speleologists found regarding low cost new materials and techniques.

The new commission has the empowerment and help of UIS country members, such as Switzerland, Serbia, Luxemburg, México, Portugal, England and United States. Those countries are represented by: Jim Davis, Henry Rockliff, Nigel Ball, Emma Lundh, Kristian Lyberg, Mats Froudenlund, Nemanja Rakic, Stefan Barth, Lina Lindan, Erik Pott, Bo Lennander,

Pedro Marote, David Foran, under the coaching



Mónica Ponce (Mexico)

of George VENI, UIS Vice-president of Administration.

The UIS Materials and Techniques Commission proposed three lines of action to start working and to establish the most important tasks within each of the following categories:

1. Training practices
2. Outreach
3. Technical equipment and materials

The publicity of the commission is in charge of the elected coordinators. A website creation was proposed and the next meeting of the Commission will be in 2015 in Luxemburg.

The Latin America and Caribbean region coordinator for the Commission, Monica PONCE (México), created a bulletin for exchanging information in the region. The bulletin, UIS Speleo-Tech, will be the official communication means for Latin America and the Caribbean. The purpose is to motivate and ask

the Latin American caving community to share ideas, , to incorporate new products, to adapt or modify existent products and the creation of new products, similar to those in the market, however with high quality and resistance standards and materials for though usage; being low cost-experimental ones.

In such way, we could add our experience, knowledge and initiative to support other groups of the UIS country members working in ideas to have a bigger safety margin during cave explorations.



Members of UIS Commission on Materials and Techniques during the meeting at 16th ICS in Brno, Czech Republic, on July 2013

ACTIVITY REPORT 2009-2013

COMMISSION ON ARCHAEOLOGY AND PALAEOLOGY IN CAVES

By Prof. Dr. Donald McFarlane (USA), co-President

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Prof. Dr. Donald McFarlane (Australia)

The Commission has been inactive in recent years. Following a general discussion at a meeting held 26th July 2013 during the 16th International Congress of Speleology, Brno, Czech Republic, it was decided to reactivate the Commission with the following goals:

AIMS OF THE COMMISSION

1. To bring together specialists and create community of support
2. To exchange information between sub-disciplines.
3. To provide bridge between academics and cavers and between different disciplines of academics.
4. To provide expressions of international support or concern for relevant issues.
5. To provide a forum for education.
6. To provide a source of advice to archaeologists, paleontologists, and cave managers.

DISCUSSION

The Commission has been inactive in recent years. Topics discussed were:

- What is aim of the commission and its mandate? What makes this commission unique
- The need to consider what membership of commission means, voting right, etc.
- The need to establish protocol for decision-making e.g., how will petitions be presented, how will they be discussed, how will decision be made on commission response?
- The concern expressed over issue of legislative protection of sites versus access to cavers, also conflict of academic use/cavers use of caves versus spiritual use.
- The need for more communication between cavers and archaeological/ paleontological community.
- The need for a list of experts.
- The need for a forum for announcements/communication.
- The need to identify and link to potential sub-groups such as the Cave Bear Research group

Full minutes are available at

<http://www.tinyurl.com/UIS-CAP>

PROGRESS

1. Co-presidents appointed
Claudio Chiappino (Italy); replaced by Natalie Uomini (UK) by mutual consent, 1st August 2013.
Donald McFarlane (USA)
2. Website has now been established at
<http://www.tinyurl.com/UIS-CAP>
3. We are currently in the process of establishing a LISTSERV via the UIS server; once this is operating, we will begin a campaign to sign-up as many participants as possible.
4. A petition submitted by commission member Nickos Poulianos on access to a Petralona Cave hominid skull (Greece) was discussed and submitted to the UIS General Assembly with a recommendation for action.

ACTIVITY REPORT 2009-2013

SECRETARY GENERAL

By Dr. Fadi NADER (Lebanon), UIS Secretary General

fadi.nader@gmail.com



Dr. Fadi NADER (Lebanon) during the UIS Bureau meetings at the 16th UIS Congress in Brno, Czech Republic, July 2013

Period from August 2009 to July 2013 July 20, 2013

Dear Cavers and National Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests, Dear Friends,

It is a traditional duty for the UIS Secretary General, to present short but exhaustive report to the General Assembly on the activity of the Union Internationale de Spéléologie, of the Bureau and the Secretary General between the previous congress (2009 Texas – USA) and the present one (2013 Brno – Czech Republic). I will follow the same format and tradition handed to me by Prof Pavel Bosak, eight years ago. I am very grateful for all his support throughout these years. The help of fellow colleagues of the UIS Bureau – including past presidents and honorary members, head of departments, commissions, and working groups, also made this difficult task easier. The UIS Bureau regularly informed on its activities and resolutions through the UIS Bulletin that is only electronically published – since 2008 – on the UIS website.

Time since the last speleological congress that was held in Kerrville in Texas (USA) in 2009, passed fast and witnessed various important activities and

achievements related to the world of caves and karst. Intensive cave exploration, and/or research, international collaborations met with increasingly difficult challenges for protecting karst areas and preserving caves. This time witnessed a lot of discoveries; more karst regions and caves were explored across the globe. We improved our knowledge on several aspects related to karst and caves – including numerical modeling and imaging, as well as caving and rescue techniques, cave mapping and photography. We keep on pushing further our knowledge on forms similar to karst also in other rocks, in salt, gypsum, sandstones, volcanic rocks, magmatites and metamorphics and even in ice. Our Pseudokarst and Artificial Cavities commissions for example are very active and continuously documenting special types of underground cavities. We contributed important data for deciphering and predicting global changes and evolution of the past, modern and future climatic trends. Speleothems represent one of the first objects for such analyses – they must be valued and protected. Commissions and Working Groups have been pushing further the limits of our knowledge on various levels. We have to thank all of them for their continuous efforts and achievements.

I will only mention some of the achievements and I apologize for not being able to report all the important activities in such a short report. In 2009, Voronya (Kruber) Cave, world's deepest, reached -2191 m and in 2010, the deepest terrestrial animals were found in the Kruber Cave – the *Plutomurus ortobalaganensis*. Several other species have been discovered in many other caves and karst regions. The largest chamber of the world (Sarawak – Borneo) was laser-scanned for 3D representation by the British Mulu Cave Project in 2011. In the Middle East, the 3rd Symposium of Middle-East Speleology took place in 2011, providing a new era for regional caving expeditions among Lebanese, Turkish and Iranian cavers. More caves were explored under the deserts of Saudi Arabia and Oman; in the gypsum of Iran, and lava tubes of Jordan and Syria. FEALC (Federation of Latin-American and the Caribbean) organized the 6th Congress in Matanzas (Cuba) in 2010.

Since then, efforts were not spared to help and support cavers of several Latin-American countries (such as Paraguay, Honduras, Peru, Uruguay, Dominican Republic and Costa Rica). In Mexico linking two major underwater caves resulted in the 2nd world longest, Systema Sac Actun (almost 311 km). After the 15th ICS in the USA, the NSS acquired new headquarters with area for camping and conferences in 2012. Work is continuing in Lechuguilla, Mammoth (over 644 km) and other caves. Fort Stanton Cave in New Mexico has the world furthest penetration/distance from a cave entrance (over 18 km). The French Federation of Speleology (FFS) has just celebrated its 50th anniversary in Millau this year (2013).

The efforts of Paul Williams, Kyung Sik Woo, Julia James and other members of the UIS Bureau and the Union were also employed for cave and karst protection. Also thanks to the UIS bodies, numerous parts of our unique and wonderful world were introduced to the UNESCO World Heritage List. Here, UIS demonstrated its unique capabilities for refereeing cave and karst issues. Henceforth, the UIS plays an important role in similar world-related issues and holds a worldwide recognition. At this stage, I am very pleased to announce to you that UIS has been accepted as associate member of ICSU (UNESCO's International Council of Scientific Union) since 2011. This is a major milestone as our Union is henceforth officially recognized among the world scientific organizations. We have also contributed to the ICSU Scientists' Responsibility Act. We continue to have cordial support from the International Union of Geography and the International Union of Geological Sciences, among other international scientific unions.

I am looking forward to the coming week at the 16th ICS, here in Brno, to meet all of you – cavers and scientists of the world – during such pleasant and successful event. I am looking forward to exchange experience, knowledge, results as usual, but also to have fun and entertainment, to meet new friends. For, what is caving without friendship? The preparation of this ICS (2013) was nothing easy, especially with the so many faced obstacles (world economy crisis, visa, etc.). Unfortunately, several other national and international speleological and caving meetings took place relatively close to the time of this ICS – this should have and must be avoided in the future. The organizers of this congress fought hard and spared no efforts and we all owe them tremendously.

The UIS Bureau followed all the caving activities in member and also non-member countries. We

worked in nice harmony, and as a team, using the advantages of recent electronic correspondence and internet. In fact, we were almost continuously in touch by electronic post, email, skype and facebook. I would like to thank all of you very much for your co-operation and self-dedication.

The activity of the UIS, its bodies and member countries can be assessed from the various events, regularly published on the UIS webpages, in the UIS Bulletin and in other speleological magazines, journals and newsletters and websites. Several tens of events were organized each year, some of them very important and internationally acknowledged, others with local or regional importance. The UIS Bulletin includes all reports concerning the time period from August 2009 when the Assembly General during the 15th International Congress of Speleology elected the new UIS Bureau up to the present time, i.e., mid-July 2013. The final report and financial reviews were completed by June 20, 2013 (They will be published in the upcoming Bulletin).

The UIS Bureau was composed as follows: James Andrew Eavis (United Kingdom) as the President, George Veni (USA) as Vice-President of Administration, Christian Dodelin as Vice-President of Operations, Fadi Nader (Lebanon) as Secretary General, Nadja Hajna Zupan (Slovenia) as Adjunct Secretary Acting Treasurer, and Aleksander Klimtchouk (Ukraine), Efrain Mercado (Puerto Rico), Kyung Sik Woo (Republic of Korea), Paul Williams (New Zealand), Stein-Erik Lauritzen (Norway), Giovanni Badino (Italy), Jean-Pierre Bartholeyens (Belgium) as Adjunct Secretaries.

The UIS Bureau met three times, i.e., in June 2010 in Postojna (Slovenia), in April 2011 in Jedovnice-Brno (Czech Republic), and in May 2012 in Cancun (Mexico). Furthermore, the UIS Bureau members attended tens of international meetings throughout this time and were always in contacts through internet between annual Bureau meetings. The UIS Bureau focused its main efforts to provide solution to several emerging problems and normal administrative tasks, e.g., UIS exposure, diversification of financial sources and financial state-of-the-art, karst and cave protection and preservation; contacts with UNESCO and ICSU, co-operation with other non-governmental institutions, Commissions and Working Groups, connection to national delegates, and public relation.

Before 14th ICS in Greece (2005), the UIS consisted of representatives of 56 member countries

from all continents, but many of them with debts and without active contacts. Today, the UIS include 46 “active” member-countries that have honored their financial duties towards the Union. I must thank Nadja Hajna Zupan for her continuous effort in having our books up-to-date. Many countries have financial debts, some of which for more than five years. Following the UIS Statutes these country will not be considered affiliated to the Union and will need to re-apply to become member-countries. The UIS Bureau is determined on your behalf to apply the Statutes.

I have to mention again and again that the form of contacts with member countries via national delegates remains very problematic, especially when there are several so-called national federations or associations in the one country. In some countries the legality of so-called elected or selected national delegate(s) is questionable. To be the national delegate to the UIS represents duty and no honor, it represents the service for national caving bodies and cavers and no income or prestige in return. The delegate must remember that he/she represents ALL the cavers of their country and not the one Federation, Association or Club they belong to.

The finances. See separate report of Nadja Hajna Zupan, Acting Treasurer.

I would like simply to announce to you that our overall budget in 2009 was less than 20000 USD and 1700 Euro, and it is today around 45000 USD and around 20000 Euro. This means more than 2x more in our USD account and 10x more in Euro account.

Commissions and Working Groups. The structure of UIS Commissions and Working Groups was traditionally the same as in the past. A lot of Commissions and Working Groups worked efficiently with substantial outputs (publications, symposia, conferences, workshops, field trips, etc.). In total 11 of these entities reported their activities for the period 2009-2013 – today we have 24 commissions and working groups.

The General Assembly has an obligation to vote on the continuing activities of the Commissions and Working Groups. I ask you, delegates to help in putting pressure on our Commissions to submit reports in due time. The new UIS Bureau has to deeply analyze the situation of individual Commissions and Working Group and to search for better future solutions – some inactive entities should be dissolved. Since Kerrville three new Commissions were set (Biology, Microbiology and Arts and Letters) and one

Commission is to be cancelled (Speleochronology and Paleokarst).

The Department of Protection and Management, headed by Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns, was especially active and succeeded in reviewing the guidelines for show caves and to initiate the France Habe prize. The Department of Education, led by Marcel Meyssonier succeeded to highlight caving for and by women since 2010 with many actions such as Speleo-feminin and “Expeditia feminina Berger -1000”. The progress in bibliography and publication of BBS is worth of mentioning, we have to thank all persons involved, especially Patrick Deriaz. Another Commission whose achievements are to be also highlighted is the commission of cave rescue with its President Christian Dodelin. Several international meetings/trainings were held and an enormous effort is achieved.

The cave diving commission has also been active and continues to produce meetings and achievements. Speleotherapy Commission succeeded their 17th International Symposium in 2012. Pseudokarst commissions have also been very active, and their news are reported in the previous UIS Bulletins.

The UIS Informatics Commission runs the UIS web pages and the UIS domain (www.uis-speleo.org). Thanks to Peter Matthews and Jasmina Rijavec and the internet team we are present in a world wide web, and thanks to them a new, modern and up-to-date website is available. Though we faced difficulties, our Internet Team managed to overcome problems and we thank your patience for that. It is strongly recommended to all the UIS and national bodies to collaborate with Peter, and especially Jasmina. We do also have a Facebook Page since 2012 which has more than 400 members already. I invite all of you to be part of our internet pages and network and to exchange information.

Important progress was also made by the UIS Commission on Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis of Karst headed by Aleksander Klimchouk of Ukraine, who co-organized three international meetings since 2009 and they will organize four more meetings until 2016. Members of this commission produced more than a thousand papers in international journals within the last four years. Three major volumes were also published by members of this commission (White et al., Frumkin et al., Lace & Mylroie). The Commission on Volcanic Caves (President Jan-Paul Van der Pas) keeps an up to date website and digital

newsletters. They continue to organize international symposia (Australia, 2010; Jordan, 2012).

The UIS Bulletin. The Bulletin was published more or less regularly since the last ICS (Kerrville, 2009). In 2009, two separate numbers (no. 52-1 and 52-2) were published and three volumes were published yearly since 2010 (no. 53, 54, 55). All Bulletin volumes could be found and downloaded from the UIS website.

International Journal of Speleology. Since 2013 (this year) the IJS is exclusively electronic through the Karst Information Portal (and with the University of South Florida). It is our top medium for publication of scientific achievements. Prof. Jo De Waele has done an excellent job as Editor-in-Chief and since the last congress and even before. In addition, the IJS is on SCI-extended and with, currently, a very good impact-factor of 1.344. The UIS has also supported financially the IJS with more than 10,000 Euro in the last four years. From now on, IJS will not be a financial burden for UIS, but will even bring profit.

Co-operation with other NGOs, governmental and private bodies. While the co-operation with the IUG, and AIH continues among some UIS Commission and Working Groups, numerous of our colleagues co-operated with the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) on the preparation of protected areas in karst and with the Commission of UNESCO for World Heritage List. We have also been present at the last ICSU Congress, as Associate Member. In addition, an excellent relationship with ISCA has been established in the last few years.

The UIS future. The future of our non-governmental, non-profit organization remains the most important challenge for any UIS Bureau. Though we have managed to bring UIS to be recognized as a prestigious international scientific union, cave- and karst-scientists are becoming increasingly independent of UIS and its commissions.

This drives many questions regarding sampling in caves – our new proposed Code of Ethics reflects on this issue and pleads for careful investigation of caves and no oversampling. At the same time, many exclusively sporting and touristic activities are emerging. They do generate a threat on our tradition, as for us caving must remain a mix of science, sports and culture and never a competitive sporting activities. Our new proposed Code of Ethics clearly states that no competition should be in caves.

The future of UIS also involves the speleologists

and the cavers of the whole world. We need to see for them to continuously develop themselves through the three aspects I mentioned above. We should succeed in supporting them irrespectively of the geopolitical and economical situations. And still, we face problems with the representation mechanism of these cavers at the UIS (here I recall the issues related to delegates), and for that we urge the next Bureau to review the UIS Statutes and come up with modern and efficient changes.

Last but not least, Karst/Cave conservation and protection. Every year we are witnessing huge damage on karst features and caves all over the world. We can claim minor success in protecting some of them, but we have many still to fight for. This is a continuous fight and I hope that we will be able to be more successful in the coming years.

I believe in international collaboration and initiatives of base-level cavers. There is room for everybody at the UIS and I keep saying to all cavers I meet that they have to consider the UIS as their own club, national and regional organizations. With the internet and today's technology, the world is becoming increasingly small (but very rich) and together we have more chances to serve our future generations of cavers and protect our caves.

Dear colleagues, at the end of this week you will elect the new UIS Bureau. I have one comment to the composition of this body. Please, elect persons who are geographically dispersed over all continents. The concentration of members from one continent is not very useful for the Bureau activities; our operations need persons from Europe, Asia and Africa (including the Arab world), Australia, North America, and South America/Caribbean. There are established regional speleological bodies, like Speleological Federation of Europe (FSE), the Balkan Speleological Federation, and the Federation of Latin-American and the Caribbean (FEALC). More tight collaboration can result in synergy and more efficient means for serving our international community of cavers and protect our caves.

Dear Colleagues, I hope that I gave you information concerning the most important topics concerning the UIS life during the last four years. Do not hesitate to approach me for any question, suggestion or comments.

NEWS FROM THE WORLD

FEALC: 30 YEARS OF SOLIDARITY

A time for celebration

By Angel GRAÑA GONZÁLEZ and Efraín MERCADO VÁZQUEZ
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Efraín MERCADO (left, Puerto Rico) and Angel GRAÑA (Cuba) pose in front of the commemorative plaque placed in Casa de Cultura Marina Azcuy, Viñales, Pinar del Río, Cuba. This is the foundational site of FEALC

In 1983 the Federación Espeleológica de América Latina y del Caribe (FEALC) was established, in the presence of eleven Latin-American countries representatives with organized speleology and ten representatives of the international speleology.

The original idea, discussed among Latin American cavers for years, was finally agreed. They already know how important was to have an organization for giving support to the emerging speleology in the countries of the region. In 1976 the Sociedad Venezolana de Espeleología (SVE) had suggested the creation of such organization in its magazine, *El Guácharo*.

Under the leadership of Dr. Antonio Núñez Jiménez (Cuba), Dr. Franco Urbani (Venezuela) and other leading speleologist from the region, the project was assembled and the idea presented in the eighth UIS International Congress of Speleology in Bowling Green, Kentucky, United States, in 1981.

The UIS president by that time was Dr. Adolfo Eraso, from Spain, who lately was part of the founders of FEALC. That was the first time in UIS history that a project like that was presented to the General Assembly.

After several meetings and coordination's the

first FEALC Assembly took place in Casa de Cultura Marina Azcuy, 1983, in the amazing karst valley of Viñales, Pinar del Río, Cuba, now a Word Heritage Area under UNESCO. In that place was formally established FEALC and in that place they decided to motivate Latin American countries with organized speleology to became part of the UIS.

After 30 years of hard work, not without struggle and necessities sometimes, FEALC reaffirms its presence, its commitment, its work and its solidarity with the real and ever productive speleology within its fourteen countries and the world.

In the same place that Latin American speleology give birth to FEALC, Casa de Cultura Marina Azcuy, a ceramic plaque, designed by a Cuban, Dr. Ercilio VENTO CANOSA, and done by Cuban artisans, was placed in this historical building, erected during the Spanish era in Cuba. This building is now a center for artisans, artists and cultural events, including a small museum.

As part of the 30th Celebration, a floral present was placed in Dr. Antonio Núñez Jiménez grave. A brief, solemn, and inspirational moment became part of this event facing the breeze of the Havana Bay. Dr. Núñez Jiménez was the first president of the FEALC.

During the placement of the plaque, his daughter Liliana Jiménez Velis, President of Antonio Núñez Jimenez Foundation for the Nature and Man was present, accompanied by her son, grandchildren of Dr. Núñez Jiménez.



The ceramic plaque in detail

THE MINDINHO'S CAVE, PORTUGAL

By Rodrigues, Paulo; Robalo, Pedro Miguel
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Mindinho's Cave lake (Portugal)

Between 2010-2013 speleological works were conducted on Mindinho's Cave, near Mira de Aire, in Estremenho karst massif (MCE), central Portugal. The works included cave diving, water sump pumping, topographic and geological survey.

The cave entrance opens at the Northern border of Mindinho's depression. This depression lies right at the border of one of MCE's largest depressions: Minde's polje.

Mindinho's Cave is known probably since the 1940s, and several explorations have been made since. However only a very simple cave sketch (C. Thomas, 1985) had been published before the beginning

of this work.

The cave is basically a gallery of metric diameter, with a jigsaw profile, who contacts with the surface due to a ceiling breakdown. The total development is 948m, the horizontal development 837m and the depth is 88m (+0m,-88m). The cave has more than ten sumps, which have to be pumped or dived in order to allow exploration. The exploration has stopped (for now) at a sump when the rainy season begun.

The cave development is controlled mostly by the geological layers strike and dip (N50-60W/20-40S to E-W/20-40S) and by some fractures. The cave is in the inactive vadose zone and acts today as collector of infiltrating water from Mindinho's depression. However the cave is clearly of phreatic origin, and probably supplied, in the geological past, water to a former spring.

The works were conducted by more than 50 cavers from several clubs and had the institutional support of the clubs: AES, GEM, NEL, NEUA, and of the Portuguese Speleological Federation (FPE). Thanks to all the cavers and especially to Orlando Elias, Rui Pinheiro, António Mendes e André Gaspar.

For more information please go to: <http://nalga.wordpress.com/the-mindinhos-cave-portugal-english/>



FROM THE PRESS

WOO KYUNG-SIK ELECTED PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL UNION OF SPELEOLOGY-UIS

By Chun Sung-woo¹
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Woo Kyung-Sik, a member of the National Heritage Committee, was elected President of the International Union of Speleology at its 16th Congress in Brno, the Czech Republic, on Sunday, the Cultu-

ral Heritage Administration said.

With the election, the 57-year-old will lead the member organization of the International Council for Science for four years.



Dr. Kyung Sik Woo (Rep. of Korea)

© Korea Herald

The council is in a close relationship with the International Union for Conservation of Nature, which is the advisory body to the World Heritage Committee.

The World Heritage Committee has the most influence on UNESCO's designation of natural heritage, and Woo is expected to help strengthen Korea's international network regarding heritage designations of the country's nature.

Woo is a professor of geology at Kangwon National University in Chuncheon, Gangwon Province.

Woo graduated from Seoul National University, earned a master's degree from Texas A&M University, and a doctoral degree from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

He is the first Asian to be elected president of

the union.

Union International Speleology is an international academic body formed in 1965 to promote interaction between academic and technical speleologists, people who study caves.

Its voting members consist of a delegate from each member country representing the cavers and speleologists of that country, rather than any of the official national bodies.

It has thousands of delegates from 61 member countries.

¹ Source: *The Korea Herald Newspapers* (July 29, 2013) www.koreaherald.com



NEXT UIS CONGRESS VENUE

July 16th to 23rd, 2017 - Sydney, Australia

By Stan FLAVEL

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From the 15th century cartographers in Europe proposed a hypothetical continent and included it on their maps in an attempt to balance the globe with equal land masses.

Terra australis, as it was called, remained a mystery until explorers ventured South and either by plan or misfortune and a growing image of this South Land took on shape and form. Later with planned expeditions, specimens of flora, fauna and mineral inspired people to set forth and investigate the wealth apparent in this vast and remote continent.

Even today this great land harbours a unique and diverse flora and fauna. It is a land ranging from arid deserts in the centre to tropical and temperate rainforests in the North and south respectively and a

very wide range of landscapes in between.

The Australian Speleological Federation is very pleased to announce that it will host the 17th International Congress of Speleology from July 16th to 23rd in 2017 in Sydney, Australia.

We welcome you the modern explorers and wanderers to participate in this Congress and experience many of the mysterious and unique features of Terra australis.

This congress is only the second to be held in the Southern Hemisphere. With a strong reputation of providing specialty conferences, symposia, seminars and workshops we can promise that this Congress will be world class event and yet be different with a distinctive Australian flavour.

The venue will be at the Panthers Event Centre chosen because of its leading edge technology, excellent management standards and efficient food and beverage services.

This large and modern conference centre is located in Penrith on the outskirts of Greater Sydney the capital of the state of New South Wales. It is well serviced by transport to the City centre and to the International Airport.

The 17th Congress will largely follow the UIS tradition to be the forum for the exchange of infor-

mation across the spectrum of disciplines that make up Speleology.

There will be oral presentations, poster presentations displays and workshops and these will be state of the art technology and integrated management.

During Congress week there will be excursions to nearby Karst regions including the World Heritage Jenolan Caves. There will be particular consideration given to all age groups and levels of accessibility. Along with the usual activities with which you are accustomed however, there will be pre and post congress caving trips and other highlights that will astound you.

Australia is also a land of secret places of little known and explored places. Our caves are no exception and the majority of caving areas are distributed around Australia and within 200 km of the coast. We are an island and have seasonal weather, distance and isolation as the main limiters to caving in remote areas.

Australian caves range from the ancient to the modern with caves in rocks from the Precambrian to the Quaternary. There are caves in limestone, dolomite, basalt, granite and sandstone and many of them are decorated with calcite, gypsum and halite. They span a spectrum of climates from desert caves to alpine caves. Our caves contain a wealth of paleontological and archaeological material such as the bones of extinct mega-fauna and the evidence of human habitation. Thanks to this diversity, numerous caves



Jenolan Caves, Sidney, Australia

are protected for their intrinsic value in reserves, Parks and World Heritage areas. A significant number of our caves are accessible to the general public as managed tourist caves.

We will be providing a website with information specific to the congress as it becomes available.

In the meantime, mark your calendars for 2017 and find a big empty jar. It just takes a Euro or a dollar at regular intervals to fill the jar and ensure an adventure of a Lifetime in the Great Southern.



The magnificent city of Sydney, Australia, the venue of the next UIS Congress

IN MEMORIAM

RAJKO BRAČIČ

Slovenia, 1964-2013

By Christian DODELIN, President UIS Commission on Cave Rescue

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Rajko Bračič, Slovenia Cave Rescue Service

IN MEMORY OF RAJKO BRAČIČ

On Sunday morning (November 3, 2013) we were shocked by the news of the early death of Rajko Bračič, chairman of the Cave Rescue Service of Slovenia (2010-2013).

Surprise and sadness were the emotions shown amongst those who knew and worked with him and many of them continue to ask the question why? Rajč, as he was better known by those close to him, died unexpectedly when returning from a visit to Molička Peč, a cave system he and his fellow cavers have been exploring repeatedly since 2004. The exploration of Molička has not ended as his path has.

Rajko began caving in 1984 as a member of the Koroško-Šaleški jamarski klub Speleos – Siga in

Velenje. He was introduced to cave rescue in 1988 when he first attended a cave rescue course held in Poljče. Since 1995 he had been an active member of Cave Rescue Service of Slovenia.

His own thoughts on caving are best summed up in his own words: “Until you learn what caves have in store for you, you cannot even begin to imagine their secrets. When you know you are the first man to roam those passages, you are hooked by the complete darkness, peace, quiet and the overwhelming feelings experienced when entering an unexplored cave or a newly discovered part of one.”

In the caving club Rajko held the positions of president, secretary, treasurer, activity leader and planner. In short, he was the club’s driving force, be it for work at the caving lodge or in their home cave – Huda luknja. He organised and led numerous caving expeditions into foreign countries including Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, Serbia, Bulgaria, France and Italy. He was also active during the Slovenian struggle for independence when he was stationed in Huda luknja defending the gorge.

Over the years Rajko amassed a wealth of knowledge and earned many caving titles starting with Caver, Cave rescuer, Rescue group leader, Leader of rescue intervention, Cave rescue instructor and Caving instructor. During his years in the Cave Rescue Service, he was a member of the Caving Association of Slovenia Presidency and Cave Rescue Service treasurer for eight years. Since 2010 he has been the chairman of the Cave Rescue Service of Slovenia.

After being elected chairman for the second term he said: “Hoping I have done a good job so far, I have decided I am ready for one more term. The results so far may be observed in many fields, and the majority of the credit goes to Cave Rescue Service leadership as well as cave rescuers that are aware of the importance of the Service for all karst explorers and its influence on their skills”.

Rajko participated in numerous rescues and in the majority of training exercises both in Slovenia and abroad. He was one of the initiators and co-author of the international Cave rescue training that is implemented by the Administration of the Republic

of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief in association with Cave Rescue Service instructors under Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for SE Europe. He has educated numerous cavers and cave rescuers in his club and within the Cave Rescue Service, ranging from caving apprentices to cave rescue instructors. Under his leadership many seemingly unsolvable caving rescue obstacles were traversed. The rescuers managed to translate and publish the Cave Rescuer's Manual, legally and formally educate a cave rescue obstruction removal team, educate a large team of cave rescuers – paramedics and successfully completed the EU Proteus project that has strengthened the Cave Rescue Service's international position, especially in former Yugoslav republics.

Rajko has also received numerous awards for his effort and dedication both at home and abroad. The ones dearest to him are the Golden Emblem Prize of the Caving association of Slovenia (2006), Bronze (2002, 2004), Silver (2008) and Golden Emblem Prize for Civil protection (2012) and recognition for his contribution to the development of cave rescue services in Serbia and Montenegro.

Rajko never ran out of either plans or ideas for the future. Sadly his time came before he could realise all of them or finish his Molička peč explorations.

Rajč, you were a true leader, mentor, role model, co-worker, and a great friend.

Submitted by:

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MAURICE AUDÉTAT

Switzerland, 1921-2013

By Jean Pierre Bartholeyns

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Maurice Audétat

Born in 1921 in Couvet, Switzerland, Maurice Audétat passed away in Fleurier on June 2, 2013, at the age of 92.

Through his essential contribution to speleology, Maurice Audétat was a key player in the cave in his region and in Switzerland. He was, indeed, a Founding Member and Honorary Member of the Lausanne Caving Group, President (1966 to 1974) and Honorary President of the Swiss Speleological Society, Honorary Member of the French Federation of Speleology and Vice-President of the International Union of Speleology (UIS).

In addition to his underground activities and in the field, Maurice Audétat was also, inter alia, the founder and President of the Documentation Commission of the Swiss Society of Speleology, Assistant Secretary of the UIS and President of the Education Department of Speleology at the UIS.

Let us therefore salute the memory of a great caver.

STEVE HUDSON

EUA, 1950-2013

By Efraín MERCADO (Puerto Rico), UIS Vice-President of Operations
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Steve Hudson

Steve Hudson, Master Instructor, friend and cave rescuer from the National Cave Rescue Commission of the NSS.

“The value of things is not the time they last, but the intensity with which they occur. That is why there are unforgettable moments, unexplained things and unique people!”

Fernando Pessoa (Portugal, 1888-1935)

Still young, with his hands full of new projects, Steve Hudson, a great cave rescuer, a Master, and a humble hearted friend, went to an expedition thru the Great Heavenly Cavern of the eternity. His departure was in peace in front of the sea breeze of the Caribbean, with a clear and blue sky that request his presence. He was never let alone. His lovely wife Diane Cousineau and later his students and cave rescuers, from a place he loves and enjoy so much, were present to attest the magic of being accompanied to the last home.

From 1976 Steve Hudson was the president of Pigeon Mountain Industries (PMI) a leading manufacturer of ropes and caving equipment located in LaFayette, Georgia, USA. He was a master in cave Rescue instruction all around US thru the National cave Rescue Commission (NCRC) of the National Speleological Society (NSS) of USA.

Steve devoted most of his highly productive life teaching others on how to save lives with the proper equipment, designing and developing new cave rescue equipment and enhancing existing equipment and organizing cave rescue commissions toward United States and the Caribbean. The first US made cave rescue static rope was developed by him and few others while in the college.

Today a great void is in the hearts of his friends all around the world, among his relatives and employees, because Steve no longer will be present. However, his paused way of talking, his wisdom, his ever present will to help others, his teachings and his great sense of responsibility toward others will last forever in the heart and souls of those who knew him, who share with him in his live.

The cave rescue community, the technical and industrial rescue people and the ones who share the “mud in the blood” mood with him will miss Steve so much... specially his friends from Puerto Rico, his point of departure to this eternal expedition.

Rest in peace friend. We will make your teaching last forever. Thanks Diane, a strong caver woman, wife and friend who enlighten Steve’s life for so many years. Your cavers and friends are here for you.

HUBERT TRIMMEL

Austria, 1924-2013

By Arrigo A. Cigna
arrigocigna@tiscali.it



Hubert Trimmel in July 2013, during the 16th ICS, Brno, Czech Republic

Born in 1924 in Vienna, Hubert Trimmel was fascinated by caves, also thanks to his teacher Franz Waldner, and very young he joined the just founded “Landesverein für Höhlenkunde in Wien und Niederösterreich” (Speleological Club of Vienna and Lower Austria).

After his PhD in Geography, Hubert Trimmel became a teacher of the middle school, a member of the Federal Monuments Office and

published several books on Speleology and karst research. Hubert was a first class scientist, with widespread interests in caves and karst, and his book *Höhlenkunde*, published in 1968, is the first modern German work on speleology.

The first time I met Hubert Trimmel was in 1958 in Lecce (Italy) during the 2nd International Congress of Speleology. At that time, Hubert was already a well known speleologist and it was one of my great will to have the opportunity to discuss with such an expert about many topics. With my great dismay, at that time unfortunately he spoke only German and my English was rather poor.

Just a few years later he learned French, and during the event of institution of the Union Internationale de Spéléologie in Postojna, our communication greatly improved. Whilst the worldwide caver community is grateful to Bernard Gèze, President-Founder of UIS, Hubert Trimmel represented not only a leading figure but, I dare say, the soul of UIS. As a matter of fact, in 1969 during the second UIS Bureau, Hubert was elected as General Secretary. He kept this role until 1986, when he was elected President of UIS. We all very well know that, although a formal change of his role within the organisation, his commitment to UIS never changed.

At the same time, he could manage so many European languages that, to his widespread knowledge and competence in so many fields of speleology, there were no more linguistic barriers. Hubert Trimmel covered the position of General Secretary and President of the International Union of Speleology for nearly 30 years.

When referring to his contribution to UIS, it is absolutely necessary to point out that it could

range from high level contacts with cavers, scientists and organisations from all over the World to the routine management of the Union. In particular, he gathered the information, prepared the text and printed the UIS Bulletin from 1970 to 1993, as well as the Internationale Bibliographie für Speläologie, a kind of “bibliographical abstracts” ante litteram from 1950 to 1960. This incredible effort, carried out by a single person, was basically possible because Hubert was in touch with so many speleologists from any part of the world and received most of the speleological literature production.

I had the chance to be very close to him during my two terms as president of UIS, and his support as General Secretary has been instrumental. Last July in Brno, we recalled the visit paid in Czechoslovakia after our election as UIS Bureau members in 1973, when we have managed to survive to a “political meeting” answering with neutral speeches (as loyal representatives of UIS) probably also thanks to the generous amount of the Armenian cognac, Ararat, for so many toasts.

Already in 1949, just few years after the end of the 2nd World War, he was a co-founder of the Austrian Speleological Association and editor of the “Die Höhle” Journal for 50 years. In addition, Hubert Trimmel got involved with the nature conservation in Austria, especially the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA) and the Umweltdachverbands UWD (Austrian Environmental Association). In 1989 he participated to the meetings leading to the foundation of the International Show Caves Association.

Hubert Trimmel inherent capability as a leader in his Country was further overwhelming worldwide. Being in touch with every speleological association in the World, I dare say, and with an incredibly large number of cavers, he had the capacity to be a kind of glue to improve cooperation and solve controversies. With the exception of the 15th ICS organised in Kerrville, Texas, he

attended to all International Speleological Congresses, starting from the first one in 1953 in Paris, France.

Given his unmistakable scientific qualities, Hubert personal characteristics ought to be emphasised. He was a true caver, with plenty of humour. In 1979, our Austrian colleagues organised a congress in Vienna concerning the speleological researches in Austria: “Höhlenforschung in Österreich”. One night a number of illustrious persons, i.e. some speleologists with great experience had a meeting in a park after a dinner with excellent food and wine. Starting from middle of the XIX Century in Europe there was a large empire, which included a rather large number of different territories.

It was a kind of European Union before its time. It was the so called Austro-Hungarian Empire. Therefore they decided to found a Society gathering important speleologists belonging to the historical territories of the Empire. The name of the Society is “Habsburg Royal and Imperial Speleological Society” and is ruled by a Kaiser. The first one was France Habe, who died in 1999. During the 13th ICS in Brasilia, Trimmel was elected as the new Kaiser and crowned with the name of Hubert the 1st.

Few years later, in 2004, the 9th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology was organised in Pico Island, Azores. During an excursion, Hubert, Erika and some other cavers were simply forgotten in a lava cave. They were obliged to a long walk in the lava fields in the night. It was only nearby a village they could be recovered by a farmer with his three-wheeler car: both Hubert and Erika felt absolutely comfortable.

For any of us, so many friends, colleagues and students, no longer benefitting of the presence, competence and capacity of Hubert Trimmel it is a great loss. He will never be forgotten.

Our heartfelt sympathy to Erika and his children and grandchildren.

MINUTES

UIS 12TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

By Dr. Fadi NADER, UIS Secretary General

fadi.nader@gmail.com

FIRST SESSION, JULY 21, 2013

**Brno – Czech Republic,
Rotunda Auditorium – BVV Trade Fairs Brno**

The First Session of the General Assembly of the 16th International Congress of Speleology started at 12:00 pm (noon) on Sunday July 21st, 2013. It took place in the prestigious Rotunda auditorium within the BVV Trade Fairs complex in Brno (where the 16th ICS was hosted).

Prof. Dr. Pavel Bosak welcomed the participants to the General Assembly of the 16th International Congress of Speleology. Soon after, the General Assembly was declared as opened by Mr. Andrew Eavis, President of the UIS, who asked the participants to observe a moment of silence for all cavers and scientists who contributed to the UIS and left the international community in between congresses (Anton Droppa [Sk], Bernard Urbain [B], Claude Chabert [F], Giulio Perotti [I], Giuliano Villa [I], Jozef Zimels [Ua], Karl Mais [A], Maurice Audétat [F], Urs Wildmer [Sw], Viktor Dublyansky [Ru], among others).

Mr. Andrew Eavis thanked the organizers of the 16th ICS and the Czech Speleological Society for all the difficulties surmounted during the four previous years. He, then, summarized briefly the achievements of the UIS Bureau in time between the 15th and 16th International Congresses of Speleology, i.e. the period of July 2009 to July 2013. He noted that the previous Bureau was one of the best he has experienced.

Thirty-seven (37) member-countries (from 59) were registered just before the opening of the first session of the General Assembly (Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Cuba, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Lebanon, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Puerto Rico, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela).

The convened Assembly General unanimously approved the minutes of the last sessions of the General Assembly that took place at the Schreiner University (Kerrville – Texas, USA) in July 2009.

The Secretary General of the UIS, Dr. Fadi Nader, presented his report illustrating the major achievements of the Union and its Bureau since the 15th ICS. He did also briefly introduce the major achievements recorded by the international speleological community. Dr. Nadja Zupan Hajna, Act-

ing Treasurer and Adjunct Secretary of the UIS, presented the financial status of the Union, which can be summarized by a healthy input/output and healthy financial status (UIS accounts on the 1st of July, 2013 consisted of 45,614.95 USD and 16,458.04 Euros). Both reports of Dr. Fadi Nader and Dr. Nadja Zupan Hajna are published in the 2013 UIS Bulletin (Vol. 56).

After that, representatives of Departments, Commissions, and Working Groups presented reports and information about their activity for the period 2009-2013. Thus, the activity of the following UIS entities was presented to the audience: Department of Protection & Management, Department of Research (Commissions of Archeology and Paleontology; Artificial Cavities; Glacier, Firn and Ice Caves; Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis; Paleo-karst and Speleochronology; Pseudokarst; Volcanic Caves), Department of Documentation (Commissions of Bibliography; Informatics, Cavers' Dictionary; History of Speleology), and Department of Exploration (Commissions of Cave Rescue; Techniques and materials Developments; and Cave Diving). Some other Commissions had submitted their reports without having somebody representing them at the first session of the General Assembly.

A short break was requested by the President, Mr. Eavis, at around 1:40pm and the General Assembly re-convened at 2:30 pm.

Suggested Associated and Affiliated Organizations presented their verbal reports. Representatives of the Australian Speleological Federation (AFS), the European Federation of Speleology (FSE), the Latin-America and Caribbean Speleological Federation (FEALC), the Balkan Speleological Federation, Mr. David Summer (President of ISCA), and Dr. George Veni (NCKRI) delivered a few words to the Assembly.

The Assembly General unanimously elected two adjudicators for the elections of the new UIS Bureau: Dr. Arrigo Cigna (Italy) and Mr. José Ayrton Labegalini (Brazil).

The Assembly General elected also two auditors: Grace Matts (Australia) and Peri Franz (USA). They were both unanimously elected.

The final version of the new Code of Ethics and changes made on the Internal Regulations were presented to the General Assembly (which were also published in the 2012 UIS Bulletin, Vol. 55). Dr. Fadi Nader reminded the Delegates that they were informed about the proposed changes more than 6 months before the 16th ICS General Assembly. He invited the Delegates to check again these documents as he pointed out that they will be voted on in the second session of the General Assembly. These documents were handed to

the members of the Advisory Committee in order to have them judged prior to having them voted in the second session.

A short, quite original, presentation of the only candidate for the 17th Congress of Speleology (2017) was delivered by the representatives of the Australian Speleology Federation (Jim Crocket and Stan Flavel).

The Secretary General (Dr. Fadi Nader) introduced official requests from Honduras, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Mongolia to become member-countries of the UIS. He also asked representatives of countries that have been dismissed from the Union to get their situation regulated and provide the needed documents to vote on their return to the Union (countries such as Algeria, Colombia, Turkey, and Vietnam). Delegates are invited to discuss about the representatives of such countries and prepare to vote on their requests in the second session of the General Assembly.

Then, proposals from the floor were heard. These were by both the French Federation of Speleology (FFS) and Speleo Nederland (The Netherlands). Delegates of both countries presented their requests (which have been submitted officially before the UIS General Assembly). Both requests concerned asking the UIS to be affiliated to international unions of sports – and particularly the FFS would like the UIS to consider developing clear approach towards canyoning. The Secretary General informed the Assembly that these requests will be discussed at the UIS Bureau meeting and will be forwarded to the Advisory Committee.

Mr. Andrew Eavis thanked again all the participants and closed the first session of the General Assembly of the 16th ICS, at around 3:30 pm on Sunday July 21st, 2013.

The Opening Ceremony of the 16th International Congress of Speleology took place at 7:00 pm on the 21st of July 2013. It was animated by traditional Czech folklore dances and music performed by local artists. After short speeches addressed by Mr. Andy Eavis (President of UIS), Prof. Dr. Pavel Bosák (Chairman of the 16th ICS), Mr. Zdeněk Motýčka (President of the Czech Speleological Society), and the Mr. Roman Celý (Deputy Governor), the UIS flag was raised, while the old Czech caver anthem “Skalin Duch” was chanted, and the 16th International Congress of Speleology (ICS) was declared open.

SECOND SESSION, JULY 28, 2013

Brno – Czech Republic, Rotunda Auditorium – BVV Trade Fairs Brno

At the opening, a total of 41 member countries were registered (Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Lebanon, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Puerto Rico, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of

America, Venezuela, Paraguay). Therefore, 41 delegates or their representative proxies could cast their votes.

The UIS President declared the second session of the General Assembly open, at around 10:00 am. Mr. Andrew Eavis invited the representatives of the UIS Departments, Commissions and Working Groups to present their planned future activities for the period 2013-2017.

All representatives of the Commissions of the Department of Research which introduced their reports during the first session, addressed the audience (e.g. Department of Protection & Management, Department of Research, Commissions of Archeology and Paleontology, Artificial Cavities, Glacier, Firn and Ice Caves, Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis, Paleo-karst and Speleochronology, Pseudokarst; Volcanic Caves, Department of Documentation, Commissions of Bibliography, Informatics, Cavers’ Dictionary, History of Speleology, Department of Exploration, Commissions of Cave Rescue, Techniques and materials Developments, and Cave Diving). Other entities, which were absent at the first session, such as Commissions of Arts and Letters, Cave Mineralogy, Long, Deep and Large Caves, and Department of Education presented their reports.

The reports of all Departments, Commissions, and Working Groups were approved unanimously (by 41 votes). All Commissions and Working Groups will send their meeting reports to the Vice President of Administration in due time. These are going to be published on the UIS official website and Bulletin.

Then, on the behalf of the Advisory Committee members (Dr. Arrigo Cigna, Dr. Pavel Bosák, Dr. Julia James, Fritz Oedl, and Dr. Hubbert Trimmel), Dr. Cigna presented their report concerning the proposals, motions and decisions. The Advisory Committee sees no objections, according to the UIS Constitution and statutes, to ask the General Assembly to vote on the new version of the UIS Code of Ethics and the modifications on the Internal Regulations. The Advisory Committee also studied the requests made by the FFS and Speleo Nederland and suggested that the new UIS Bureau considers them seriously and proceed with convenient actions.

The new Code of Ethics and Internal Regulations were then voted on by the General Assembly separately, and both received a unanimous votes (41 votes).

Two budget auditors, Grace Matts (Australia) and Peri Franz (USA), after examining the books and relevant documents provided by the Acting Treasurer, presented the audit report and recommendations:

Audit Report on the accounts of the Union Internationale de Spéléologie for the period of August 2009 to July 2013.

“We would like to congratulate the new Treasurer on her excellent presentation of the accounts. Our task has been made so much easier and quicker.”

Recommendations

- *The position of Treasurer of the UIS should be estab-*

lished and should not be given a set period of office – stability in this position is essential.

- The Treasurer (currently Acting Treasurer) needs to be given the authority to make decisions with regard to the management and investments of UIS monies, in the best interests of the Bureau, without the requirement of prior approval of the Bureau.

- A simplified summary of the income and expenditure, presented to the General Assembly, would be preferred based on the audited returns (example provided to the Treasurer).

- Invoices sent to member countries need to include charges made by the Slovenian Bank.

- All countries are encouraged to acknowledge receipt of invoices, even when payment will be delayed. We would urge all countries to pay their fees on time.

At this time the balance of the funds held by the UIS are 45,614.95 USD and 16,458.04 Euros.

Grace Matts (Australia) and Peri Franz (USA)

The auditors' report received unanimous acceptance with 41 votes.

The next point was to vote for the organizers of the next, 17th ICS to be held in 2017. There was only one candidate, Australia. The election took place, after a short presentation by the organizers, granting 40 votes for and one vote against. So the upcoming 17th ICS will take place in Sydney (Australia) in 2017.

The Assembly General was then notified about major speleological events that will take place between the International Congresses of Speleology:

2013

1. International Cave Survey Camp: Topo Sorbas 2013, 11-18 August, Almería, Spain.

2. Karstic Geomorphology: from hydrological functioning to palaeo-environmental reconstructions, 27-31 August, Paris, France.

3. International Symposium on Hierarchical Flow Systems in Karst Regions, 4-7 September, Budapest, Hungary.

2014

1. International Field Conference: Hypogene Cave Morphologies, 2-7 February, San Salvador, Bahamas.

2. 16th Vulcanospeleology Symposium, 16-22 March, Galapagos Islands, Ecuador.

3. Balkan Speleological Conference, 28-30 March, Sofia, Bulgaria.

4. International Conference and Field Seminar: Karst Without Boundaries, 11-15 June, Trebinje (Bosnia & Herzegovina) and Dubrovnik (Croatia).

5. 8th CEALC-FEALC Congress of Speleology for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 29-31, Catacamas, Honduras, Central America.

6. 6th International Workshop on Ice Caves, 17-22 August, Idaho Falls, Idaho, USA.

7. KR 7, 23-28-August, Melbourne, Australia.

8. International Show Caves Association Congress, 2-8 November, Jenolan Caves, Australia.

2015

1. Cave Rescue Conference, Spring 2015, Switzerland

2. 15th Multidisciplinary Conference on Sinkholes and the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst, 5-9 October, Rochester, Minnesota, USA.

2016

1. Deep Karst 2016: origins, resources, and management of hypogene karst, 11-14 April 2016, Carlsbad, New Mexico, USA

2. 5th European Speleological Congress, August, Yorkshire Dales, UK.

The elections of the New UIS Bureau were introduced by Dr. Arrigo Cigna by explanation of the procedure following the UIS Constitution (22 votes minimum for election in the first round). Two adjudicators were selected: Dr. Arrigo Cigna (Italy), Mr. José Ayrton Labegalini (Brazil). Prof. Dr. Pavel Bosák (Czech Republic) also helped them with the counts. Dr. Arrigo Cigna introduced the only one candidate for the UIS President, Prof. Dr. Kyung Sik Woo, Korea; for the UIS Vice-Presidents (G. Veni, USA; E. Mercado, Puerto Rico), the only nomination to the UIS Secretary General (F. Nader, Lebanon), and nominations for UIS Adjunct Secretaries (C. Dodelin, France; J.-P. Bartholeyns, Belgium; N. Zupan Hajna, Slovenia; B. Giovanni, Italy; S. Flavel, Australia; A. Zhalov, Bulgaria; N. Colzato, Brazil; Z. Motycka, Czech Republic; S. Goto, Japan; Y. Zhang, China; J. Gunn, United Kingdom; J. Lundberg, Sweden; M. Garasic, Croatia; G. Hegedus, Hungary). All new candidates briefly introduced themselves in front of the General Assembly before the election took place.

The UIS President - Prof. Dr. Kyung Sik Woo of Korea - was elected in the first round obtaining 40 votes (one abstention to vote). The UIS Vice-President for Administration Dr. George Veni was re-elected in the first round with 41 votes (unanimous). Mr. Efrain Mercado (Puerto Rico) was elected as the new UIS Vice-President for Operations in the first round with 41 votes (unanimous). The UIS Secretary General - Dr. Fadi Nader of Lebanon - was unanimously re-elected in the first round (41 votes).

The UIS Adjunct Secretaries were elected in two rounds. During the first round, following members were elected: Dr. Nadja Zupan Hajna of Slovenia (41 votes); Mr. Christian Dodelin of France (35 votes); Mr. Zdenek Motycka of the Czech Republic (33 votes); Mr. Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns of Belgium (32 votes), Mr. Stan Flavel of Australia (27 votes); Dr. Badino Giovanni of Italy (23 votes); Prof. Dr. Mladen Garasic of Croatia (22) votes. The unsuccessful candidates from the first round were nominated to the second round of election. Mr. Nivaldo Colzato of Brazil was elected by 13 votes obtaining more votes than any other candidate.

The Statement of the newly elected UIS President

was presented by Prof. Dr Kyung Sik Woo, following the elections. He thanked the audience and expressed his will to move forward with the new UIS Bureau and work hard for the Union. He thanked the members of the past Bureau.

Then the General Assembly voted on the requests of new member countries and returning member countries. The new member-countries were Honduras, Islamic Republic of Iran and Mongolia with 40, 39 and 37 votes, respectively. Four old returning countries were also accepted by the General Assembly: Algeria (40 votes), Turkey (40 votes), Colombia (38 votes), and Vietnam (38 votes).

Dr. Fadi Nader presented a motion to appoint Mr. Andy Eavis of the United Kingdom as Honorary Past-President of the UIS. The motion was accepted with 40 votes and one delegate absent, which is then considered as unanimous vote.

Finally, the UIS Past-President - Mr. Andrew Eavis - in a short conclusive speech declared the Assembly General of the 16th ICS, as closed at about 1:00 pm. He invited everybody to join around the UIS Flag to start complete the closure ceremony with giving the UIS Flag to the 17th ICS organizers.



Nivaldo Colzato

Prof. Dr. Pavel Bosak welcoming the participants to the General Assembly of the 16th International Congress of Speleology



Efrain Mercado

Stan FLAVEL and Jim CROCKET show the official flag of the UIS for the next congress in Sydney, Australia.

MINUTES

UIS BUREAU MEETINGS AT THE 16TH ICS

July 20-28, 2013 - BVV Trade Fairs – Brno - Czech Republic

By Dr. Fadi NADER, UIS Secretary General

fadi.nader@gmail.com

SESSION 1

Saturday July 20, 2013; at 09h25 (local time)

Attendance

President: Andrew James EAVIS

Vice-President for Operations: Christian DODELIN

Vice-President for Administration: George VENI

Secretary General: Fadi NADER

Adjunct Secretaries:

Gioanni BADINO

Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS

Alexander KLIMCHOUK

Stein-Erik LAURITZEN

Efraín MERCADO

Paul WILLIAMS

Kyung Sik WOO

Nadja ZUPAN HANA

Honorary & Past Presidents:

Hubert TRIMMEL

Pavel BOSAK

José Ayrton LABEGALININ

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

Andy Eavis thanked all participants for coming to Brno. He expressed his satisfaction to see all Bureau members present at this first session of the annual UIS Bureau meeting. Andy Eavis thanked also the organizers of the 16th ICS for their efforts and congratulated them for all their efforts leading to an excellent congress.

The Agenda of the Meetings during the Congress was then approved by the present Bureau members.

2) Approval of Minutes from Regular Bureau Meeting of 2012 (Cancun, Mexico)

A few minor comments were made on the minutes of the last UIS Bureau Meeting (Cancun – Mexico; 2012), which were noted by Fadi Nader.

Fadi Nader, then, proposed a motion to accept the minutes. Andy Eavis seconded this motion and it was passed by the Bureau.

Together with the minutes, the list of decisions/actions was published on the UIS Bureau Forum and sent by e-mails to Bureau members.

3) Review of Finances (Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA)

Nadja Zupan Hajna ran through the detailed budget

and expenses since 2009, which she also presented (later on) to the General Assembly.

UIS FINANCIAL REPORT, BRNO 2013

Prepared by Nadja Zupan Hajna, UIS Adjunct Secretary – Treasurer (after Kerrville, USA, 2009); authorized representative of UIS in Slovenia from 2011 (before was Andrej Mihevc).

Bank account in Slovenia: at Banka Koper, Poslovna enota Postojna, Tržaška cesta 1, 6230 Postojna, Slovenia.

Account name: Mednarodna speleološka zveza (International Union of Speleology) – UIS, Titov trg 2, Postojna

Account No.: 10100-0037861520

IBAN: SI56 1010 0003 7861 520

BIC: BAKOSI2X

Financial situation on UIS account: 1.7.2013

• 45.614,95 USD (45,614.95 USD)

• 16.458,04 EUR (16,458.04 EUR)

USD from 1.7.2009 to 1.7.2013

01.07.2009 = 18.623,34 USD (DATA EM INGLÊS)

31.12.2009 = 59.200,24 USD

31.12.2010 = 34.227,88 USD

31.12.2011 = 25.533,35 USD

31.12.2012 = 10.964,94 USD

01.07.2013 = 45.614,95 USD

EUR from 1.7.2009 to 1.7.2013

01.07.2009 = 1.717,11 EUR

31.12.2009 = 6.303,07 EUR

31.12.2010 = 5.785,75 EUR

31.12.2011 = 10.764,40 EUR

31.12.2012 = 12.964,39 EUR

01.07.2013 = 16.458,04 EUR

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTS

FROM 1.7.2009 TO 1.7.2013

George Veni informed the Bureau members that some commissions have asked for funding (following UIS Bureau decision to financially assist commissions with up to 2,000 Euros for the year 2013).

The Bureau agreed the requested funds:

- Karst/Cave Protection (France Habe Prize): 250 Euros
- Pseudokarst: 225 Euros
- Artificial Cavities: 500 Euros

The Bibliography Commission has also asked for a budget of 1,500 Euros, which is very high with respect to the agreed overall budget. Thus, the Bureau decided to consider this request pending until further clarifications are obtained from Patrick Deriaz (head of the Bibliography Commission).

Nadja Zupan Hajna also explained about the situation

ACCOUNT 2009	EUR FROM 1.7.
Before 1.7.2009	1.717.11
Plus after 30.6	4.465.62
Minus after 30.6	-59.66
31.12.2009	6.303.07
Bank 31.12.2009	6.303.07
Difference	0

ACCOUNT 2010	EUR
From 2009	6.303.07
Plus in 2010	885.18
Minus in 2010	-1.402.50
31.12.2010	5.785.75
Bank 31.12.2010	5.785.75
Difference	0

ACCOUNT 2011	EUR
From 2010	5.785.75
Plus in 2011	5.379.34
Minus in 2011	-400.69
31.12.2011	10.764.4
Bank 31.12.2011	10.764.4
Difference	0

ACCOUNT 2012	EUR
From 2011	10.764.40
Plus in 2012	3.661.84
Minus in 2012	-1.461.85
31.12.2012	12.964.39
Bank 31.12.2012	12.964.39
Difference	0

ACCOUNT 2013	EUR
From 2012	12.964.39
Plus in 2013	4.435.16
Minus in 2013	-941.51
31.12.2013	16.458.04
Bank 31.12.2013	16.458.04
Difference	0

ACCOUNT 2009	USD
Before 1.7.2009	18.623.34
Plus After 1.7	40.653.52
Minus After 1.7	-76.45
31.12.2009	59.200.24
Bank 31.12.2009	59.200.24
Difference	0

ACCOUNT 2010	USD
From 2009	59.200.24
Plus in 2010	27.64
Minus in 2010 ¹	-25.000.00
31.12.2010	34.227.88
Bank 31.12.2010	34.227.88
Difference	0

¹ 1 Deposit

ACCOUNT 2011	USD
From 2010	34.227.88
Plus in 2011	1.349.42
Minus in 2011 ²	-10.043.95
31.12.2011	25.533.25
Bank 31.12.2011	25.533.25
Difference	0

² Donation to UIS

ACCOUNT 2012	USD
From 2011	25.533.25
Plus in 2012 ³	26.236.95
Minus in 2012 ⁴	-40.832.36
31.12.2012	10.964.94
Bank 31.12.2012	10.964.94
Difference	0

³ 1 Deposit back

⁴ 1 Deposit

ACCOUNT 2013	USD
From 2012	10.961.07
Plus in 2013	35.213.88
Minus in 2013	-560.00
31.12.2013	45.614.95
Bank 31.12.2013	45.614.95
Difference	0

of the Spanish version of the book "Cave Geology" by Art Palmer. Previously, the UIS Bureau agreed to help in financing the publishing of this book, but extra-costs for shipment prevailed. Selling Spanish version volumes of "Cave Geology" is supposed to pay back UIS. Nevertheless, the UIS cannot sell books according to its status as a non-profit organization. A large number of the volumes have been given to UIS and brought by Nadja from Postojna.

- Efrain Mercado volunteered to find a solution for these books and find a way to get them sold on the behalf of the UIS.

An overview on the payment of fees of member-countries took place and Nadja pointed out more than a dozen of member countries who did not pay for the last 5 years. A unanimous decision was made to remove these countries from the list of the UIS and ask them to request to join the Union when they are able to contribute and keep the contact. In addition, those countries who did not pay for three years consecutively, will not be given the right to vote at the General Assembly sessions.

The following decisions/actions were made:

ACTION 1: The amount of 45,000 USD will be put in deposit of our bank in Postojna (SLOVENIA) and that for duration of two years. Acting Treasurer, Nadja Zupan Hajna will proceed with this decision.

ACTION 2: Fadi Nader, Secretary General, will send a payment order of 500Euros/year for UIS-ICSU membership fees to Acting Treasurer, Nadja Zupan Hajna. The payment order will cover the duration between congresses (until the 17th ICS in 2017).

ACTION 3: Fadi Nader, Secretary General, will send a payment order of 320Euros/year for account auditing expenses to Acting Treasurer, Nadja Zupan Hajna. The payment order will cover the duration between congresses (until the 17th ICS in 2017).

4) Previous meetings and events

a. 20th International Karst School, Postojna, Slovenia (June 2012): Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns, Nadja Zupan Hajna and Stein-Erik Lauritzen attended this event.

b. NSS Convention – Lewisburg, West Virginia, USA (25-29 June 2012): George Veni, Pavel Bosak and Zdenek Motycka attended the convention. Pavel Bosak was awarded Honorary Member of the NSS.

c. 13th Swiss National Congress of Speleology – Muotathal (29 September to 1 October 2012) – FSE Meeting: Andy Eavis, Christian Dodelin and Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns.

d. Geological Society of America Convention – Charleston, South Carolina, USA (4-7 November 2012): George Veni attended the GSA 2012 convention.

e. Carbon & Boundaries in Karst – Carlsbad, NM,

USA (7-11 January 2013): George Veni attended this event. The proceedings from the conference will be published in upcoming issues of Acta Carsologica.

f. 11th Congress of UMAE, Merida, Mexico (1-4 February 2013): Efrain Mercado attended this event.

g. 13th Multidisciplinary Conference on Sinkholes and the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst – Carlsbad, New Mexico, USA (6-10 May 2013): George Veni attended this event.

h. 16th ACKMA Conference, New Zealand (12-18 May 2013): Andy Eavis and Paul Williams attended this event.

i. 50th Anniversary FFS, Millau, France (11-18 May 2013): Christian Dodelin attended this event.

j. ASF Convention, Jenolan, Australia (23-25 May 2013): Andy Eavis and Julia James attended this event.

k. 21st International Karst School, Postojna, Slovenia (15-20 June 2013): Nadja Zupan Hajna attended this event.

5) Preparation for the General Assembly (Agenda)

The Agenda of both sessions of the General Assembly was reviewed and amended to fit with the current situation (the minutes of the GA are in a separate report).

Fadi Nader and George Veni informed the Bureau that the following commissions had submitted their reports ahead of the ICS:

- Informatics
- Pseudokarst
- Diving
- Bibliography
- Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis
- Speleochronology and Paleokarst
- SpeleoTherapy
- Vulcanospeleology
- Cave Rescue
- Karst and Cave Protection

Important issues discussed concerning the General Assembly at the 16th ICS:

1- Speleo Nederland Request:

Developing UIS relationships with International Sports Unions in order to be able to have better conditions for funding from national sports authorities and insurance.

2- French Speleological Federation (FFS; President Laurence Tanguille):

Having the UIS establish an official relationship with International Olympic Commission, and consider adopting canyoning activities within the realm of the Union or become affiliated to the international union/federation of canyoning.

3- Brazil Speleological Federation (SBE):

Suggesting to organize the 18th ICS in Brazil and nomination of Adj. Secretary for the 2013 General Assembly UIS Bureau election.

DECISION 1: The Bureau will invite Speleo Nederland

and the FFS to address the UIS General Assembly during its first session. The Bureau will discuss with both Federations about their request, which will be also referred to the UIS Advisory Committee.

Concerning the sporting aspect of the UIS, after a long discussion the UIS Bureau agreed on the following motions:

“Caving has the aspect of an adventurous sporting activity – but not competitive. The UIS at this stage will not apply for affiliation in any international sport union”.

“Confirm the Code of Ethics, Clause D2: Competition should not be held inside caves...”

6) Code of Ethics and Internal Regulations

Fadi Nader and George Veni informed the Bureau members about the progress of the new Code of Ethics and the amendments proposed on the Internal Regulations. Fadi Nader explained that the new version of the Code of Ethics (and amendments on the Internal regulations) have been published in January 2013 (in the UIS Bulletin 55) and were on the UIS website since that time. Having send them by email twice to all Delegates and National Organizations, and not receiving any complaints, these documents will be voted at the second session of the General Assembly. The vote will be for adopting or not adopting them without asking further modification at this stage. Of course this is after having the approval of the Advisory Committee.

7) UIS Prizes

Fadi Nader reported that Julia James took care of preparing the UIS prizes (Poster-, Book-, and Exploration-Prizes). The UIS Bureau agreed to grant the winners of the three mentioned prized 100, 100, and 200 Euros, respectively. She had prepared certificates and will finalize the presentation in Brno, which will be delivered at the ICS Banquet at the Congress.

8) Requests for UIS Membership

Fadi Nader informed the Bureau members that he has received written official requests to join the UIS from established national organization from Iran and Mongolia.

Tunisian cavers also contacted the Secretary General and discussed about returning to UIS, but official decision is expected to take place during the 16th ICS in Brno.

9) Information about Delegates, Member Countries, and Other Business

Several news and informative issues were discussed by the UIS Bureau members concerning international expeditions and the situation of Member Countries (e.g. Argentina, Portugal, Serbia).

The Euro-Speleo Magazine was also presented to the UIS Bureau.

The UIS Bureau agreed to grant the use of the UIS Logo to the organizers of the 7th International Conference of Climate Change (the Karst Record): 29 September – 30 October, 2014.

A discussion with David Summers (ISCA) tackled the new show-cave guidelines, to which the UIS is to collaborate (with Dr. Arrigo Cigna).

10) Finalizing the UIS General Assembly Agenda

This follows on Item#5 above. The General Assembly Agenda was prepared and finalized by the UIS Bureau members.

11) Closing

The first session of the annual UIS Bureau Meeting for the year 2013 ended at 15h35 (local time).

SESSION 2

**Saturday July 28, 2013; at 14h10 (local time
(after second session of General Assembly and
election of new Bureau)**

Attendance:

President: Kyung Sik WOO

Vice-President for Administration: George VENI

Vice-President for Operations: Efrain MERCADO

Secretary General: Fadi NADER

Adjunct Secretaries:

Giovanni BADINO

Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS

Nivaldo COLZATO

Christian DODELIN

Stan FLAVEL

Mladen GARASIC

Zdenek MOTYCKA

Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA

Honorary & Past-Presidents:

Pavel BOSAK

José Ayrton LABEGALINI

Andrew James EAVIS

Previous Bureau Members:

Paul WILLIAMS, Stein-Erik LAURITZEN

12) Welcoming New Bureau Members

Kyung Sik Woo opened the second session of the Bureau meeting (and the first meeting with the newly elected Bureau) in Brno by welcoming all new Bureau members and thanking all previous members for their work and dedication to the UIS. He asked Fadi Nader to prepare letters of thanks to all members who have now left the Bureau.

ACTION 4: Fadi Nader (Secretary General) will write letter of thanks to all UIS Bureau members who have left the Bureau after the elections at the 2nd session of the General Assembly of the 16th ICS.

After the election at the second session of the General Assembly at the 16th ICS, Nivaldo Colzato (Brazil), Stan Flavel (Australia), Mladen Garasic (Croatia), and Zdenek Motycka (Czech Republic) joined the Bureau. Some shuffling in position occurred as Efrain Mercado was elected Vice-Pres-

ident (for Operations), while Christian Dodelin as Adjunct Secretary. Andy Eavis was elected by the General Assembly as Honorary Past President.

Andy Eavis noted that in the previous years the Bureau has continuously evolved into a better, efficient, and increasingly pleasant working group. He expressed how difficult it would be for him to leave the UIS Bureau as a President and congratulated Kyung Sik Woo.

13) Operations and Responsibilities

a. Review job responsibilities following the Internal Regulations

George Veni reviewed the job-description of the members of the UIS Bureau as indicated by the Internal Regulations. UIS Adjunct Secretaries were asked to take some weeks to propose specific activities that they would take in charge.

b. UIS Website + Informatics Commission

Fadi Nader reported about the progress regarding the UIS website and the recommendations made by the Informatics Commission.

- Voting should be possible by emails.
- Zdenek Motycka suggested to investigate about upgrading the UIS website.

c. UIS Bulletin: News

Efrain Mercado (VP Operations) will be in charge of the upcoming issues of the UIS Bulletin.

- Two numbers/issues per year make each yearly volume of the UIS Bulletin.
- The possibility to publish them on html format rather than PDF is to be studied by Efrain Mercado.

d. Follow-up on Commissions

George Veni (VP Administration) remains in charge of following up on Departments, Commissions and Working Groups.

The Bibliography Commission revised its budget request to 500 Euros. This amount fits with the allocated budget by previous Bureau.

DECISION 2: The Bureau accepted the request made by the Bibliography Commission and asked the Acting Treasurer, Nadia Zupan Hajna to proceed with the payment of 500Euros to the mentioned commission.

e. National Delegates, Organizations and Regional bodies

With respect to delegates and member countries, the UIS Bureau agreed on:

- 1- Remove all previous member-countries (which no longer are considered as member-country, e.g. failure of payment for more than 5 years) from the UIS list of member countries (on website).
- 2- Remove contested delegates from the list of na-

tional delegates of the UIS – until the contesting parties agree on one delegate.

The last time the UIS Statutes was modified goes back to 1996. The new UIS Bureau decided to work on proposing a new version of the UIS Statutes that is up to date. A small group for revising the Statutes was established.

DECISION 3: Pavel Bosak, Fadi Nader, George Veni and Nadja Zupan Hajna will form a group that will review the UIS Statutes and suggest a revised form to the UIS Bureau at the 2014 annual Bureau meeting.

14) UIS Advisory Committee

The UIS Bureau agreed on adding Paul Williams and Andy Eavis to the UIS Advisory Committee.

DECISION 4: The UIS Advisory Committee (2013) includes: Dr Hubert Trimmel (AUT); Dr. Pavel Bosak (CZE); Dr. Arrigo Cigna (ITA); Dr. Friedrich Oedl, jr. (AUT); Dr. Paul Williams (NZL); and Mr. Andy Eavis (GBR).

15) Running Projects

a. UIS Book (José Ayrton Labegalini)

Jose Ayrton Labegalini informed the Bureau about the progress of the UIS book project. He distributed paper copies of the draft version to several UIS Bureau members.

A tentative road-map was proposed:

- Review 1 (30th Nov 2013)
- Final Review (Nov 2014 – Bureau Meeting)
- Print (2015 – before June/ Bureau Meeting UIS 50th Anniversary)

b. ICSU-International Council for Science

Andy Eavis reported to the Bureau his experience at the latest ICSU Convention (27-30 September, 2011) and strongly recommended the participation of the UIS at the upcoming meeting.

Kyung Sik Woo, Andy Eavis and Paul Williams will represent the UIS at the next ICSU Convention.

DECISION 5: Dr. Paul Williams has been asked to stand as the UIS Advisor to ICSU.

16) Future Meetings and Events of Interest

a. Hypogene Cave Morphologies; 2-7 February 2014 (Bahamas)

Alexander Klimchouk will attend this meeting.

b. Volcanic Caves Symposium; 15-27 March 2014 (Galapagos)

Kyung Sik Woo, Stein-Erik Lauritzen and Andy Eavis will attend this symposium.

c. Balkan Speleological Conference; 28-30 March

2014 (Sofia, Bulgaria)

Efrain Mercado considers attending this conference.

d. Karst without Borders; 11-15 June 2014 (Trebinje, Bosnia and Herzegovina)

This is a UNESCO supported meeting of the Karst Commission of the International Association of Hydrogeologists. Mladen Garasic will attend this meeting.

e. 22nd International Karst School, Postojna, Slovenia (June 2014): Microbiology

Nadja Zupan Hajna, Pavel Bosak, and Zdenek Motycka will attend this event.

f. NSS Convention; 14-18 July 2014 (Hunsville - Alabama, USA)

George Veni and Zdenek Motycka will attend this event.

g. International Workshop on Ice Caves VI; 17-22 August 2014 (Idaho Falls, USA)

George Veni will attend this event.

h. Karst Record Conference (7); 29 September - 3 October 2014 (Melbourne, Australia)

Paul Williams and Andy Eavis will attend this conference.

i. ISCA Convention – in association with ACKMA; 2-8 November 2014 (Jenolan Caves, Australia)

George Veni and Zdenek Motycka will attend this event.

17) UIS Bureau 2014 meeting (Sydney, Australia)

DECISION 6: The UIS Bureau members decided that the upcoming meeting will take place in conjunction with the 2014 ISCA (International Show Cave Association) Convention, Jenolan Caves / Sydney, which will take place between the 2nd and 8th of November 2014 in the Jenolan Caves (Sydney, Australia). The UIS Bureau meeting is expected to be just before the ISCA Convention (end of October).

ACTION 5: Stan Flavel will discuss with the ASF (Australian Speleological Federation) and ISCA/ACKMA about the possibility for having the 2014 UIS meeting in Sydney and will report to UIS Bureau as soon as possible in order to start organizing the meeting.

18) Closing Session (President) + Setting the Action List for 2014

At 16h00, Kyung Sik Woo closed the Second Session of the Brno, 2013 UIS Bureau meeting and thanked everybody for their presence and their contribution.

ACTION 6: Fadi Nader will prepare the minutes of the meetings and the Action List for 2014.



ATTENDANTS 2nd SESSION (left to right): Efraín MERCADO (*Vice-President for Operations/Puerto Rico*); Andrew James EAVIS (*Former President/England*); George VENI (*Vice-President for Administration/EUA*); Christian DODELIN (*Adjunct Secretary/France*); Pavel BOSAK (*Honorary member/Czech Rep.*); Kyung Sik WOO (*President/Rep. of Korea*); Stan FLAVEL (*Adjunct Secretary/Australia*); Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA (*Adjunct Secretary and Treasurer/Slovenia*); Jean Pierre BARTHOLEYNS (*Adjunct Secretary/Belgium*); Fadi NADER (*Secretary General/Lebanon*); Giovanni BADINO (*Adjunct Secretary/Italy*); Zdeněk MOTYČKA (*Adjunct Secretary/Czech Rep.*); Nivaldo COLZATO (*Adjunct Secretary/Brazil*); Mladen GARASIC (*Adjunct Secretary/Croatia*); Stein-Erik LAURITZEN (*Former Adjunct Secretary/Norway*) and Paul WILLIAMS (*Former Adjunct Secretary/New Zealand*) - Photo by José Ayrton LABEGALINI (*Past President*).

UIS CODE OF ETHICS

FOR CAVE EXPLORATION AND SCIENCE IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES



Accepted by the International Union of Speleology (UIS) at the General Assembly at the 12th International Congress of Speleology (La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland, 1997)
Modified by the General Assemblies at the 13th International Congress of Speleology (Brasilia, Brazil, 2001)
and the 16th International Congress of Speleology (Brno, Czech Republic, 2013)

SUMMARY

A: GENERAL CAVING IN YOUR OWN COUNTRY

- When dealing with caves, keep the main focus strictly on the cave and its contents.
- Minimum impact ("traceless travel") should be the underlying principle.

B: CAVING EXPEDITIONS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

- UIS supports the international activities of speleological societies, caving groups and karst scientists.
- Diplomacy and common sense must be practised.
- Search for local collaboration and permission before leaving your country.
- During the expedition follow local laws and customs.
- After the expedition, send copies of all printed material to the participating caving clubs and the national speleological organisation and/or the UIS national delegate, and acknowledge assistance received in all expedition publications.
- Respect for the work of other groups and individuals.

C: FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF SHOW CAVES

- Show caves should be developed in a sustainable fashion.
- Show cave interpretation should focus on education rather than entertainment.
- Cavers and cave scientists should help to maintain the quality of show caves.

D: ADVENTURE, GEO- AND ECO-TOURISM

- Adventure travel and ecotourism must be traceless and sustainable.
- Competitions should not be held in caves.

E: SCIENTIFIC SAMPLING

- Sampling should only be undertaken by well qualified experts (or their trained assistants) for their own research.
- Samples and specimens should be neither purchased nor sold.
- Local practice should be followed for permission.
- Results of research should be passed to international data repositories.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to serve as a first step in the development of a new international code of ethics for caving and cave conservation. UIS cannot enforce rules on its members, nor can it be responsible for illegal expeditions. This code is intended as a forceful recommendation that describes an ideal scenario for individual member countries to implement with—if absolutely necessary—appropriate adjustments that take account of particular circumstances in their countries. The aim of the code is to ensure respectful practices when visiting caves and in relating to other people who deal with them.

It is the consensus of the Bureau of the UIS (2008) that:

Caves and karst features, as well as many other underground cavities, are extremely valuable, vulnerable and irreplaceable.

placeable. These sites are repositories for aesthetics and a vast range of scientific information that is not available elsewhere.

Caves may be regarded as "time-machines." Their pristine and timeless atmosphere is immediately obvious to any visitor. Caves are a limited resource with close to zero carrying capacity. Recent developments in cave microbiology and trace element geochemistry have established and emphasized the uniqueness and vulnerability of the cave environment. The international community of cavers, scientists and the general public all have a duty to pass on this unspoiled cave legacy to future generations. We want future generations to be able to experience the same untouched and aesthetic atmosphere as we do in our caves today. The owners of our caves are those who are not yet born, as well as the present generation.

The caving community is international and consists of individuals with a wide range of backgrounds. Whether a layman, caver, or scientist, all share a keen interest in their caves and have often invested immense personal resources into their exploration and cave stewardship. Such efforts deserve great respect when dealing with speleologists from different regions and nations.

Therefore, the UIS Code of Ethics covers

- a) general caving in your own country;
- b) caving expeditions to foreign countries;
- c) future development of show caves;
- d) adventure and geo- and eco-tourism;
- e) scientific sampling.

The code is organized in paragraphs of short explanatory text with examples.

A: GENERAL CAVING IN YOUR OWN COUNTRY

Every country should develop its own code of ethics, but something along the following lines is recommended:

§ 1. When dealing with caves, keep the main focus strictly on the cave and its contents.

This is the most basic and simplest rule for maintaining the state of a cave. If, on the contrary, the focus is on something other than the cave, such as financial gain, personal objectives, rescue, etc., then the cave will suffer. Visiting a cave is like borrowing a book at the library; it must be returned in the same state as you received it—you don't tear out pages, write comments, or leave stains on it.

§ 2. Minimum impact ("traceless travel") should be the underlying principle.

One should try to avoid leaving footprints, even on sediment floors, and must avoid smearing and spreading sediments over rocks and speleothems. As the caving community grows faster than the number of known caves, the statement "leave nothing but footprints" is no longer sufficient. One should also acknowledge that microbial cross-contamination within and of caves may become the most serious (and invisible) threat to the cave environment in the future. The only permanent marks that

may be acceptable are modest survey stations and other reference points for mapping and scientific investigations.

Likewise, during a cave rescue, the focus is naturally—and should be—on the victim and the transport logistics. This is the only situation where excessive trampling and wear may have to be accepted. However, similar damage is sometimes unavoidable during rescue practice (training). Therefore, rescue practice should be restricted to only a few already damaged caves and never performed in newly discovered or otherwise pristine caves.

Every caving trip makes an impact and contributes to the eventual cumulative destruction of the cave. Ideally, all caving trips should aim to have some kind of return—apart from personal excitement—to make up for the damage inflicted, in the form of documentation (such as survey, photographs, scientific observations). Knowledge is the most important legacy we can provide for others. Likewise, every caver must carry out their trash, etc.

B: CAVING EXPEDITIONS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Here we distinguish between visiting known caves (adventure caving) and exploring areas for new caves (expedition caving). The remarks that follow refer particularly to expeditions. The principle is to realize that one is a guest in a foreign country and to behave appropriately, paying respect to the hosts and local people. This responsibility is mutual, both guests and hosts are expected to respectfully acknowledge (and cite in publications) previous work.

§ 1. UIS supports the international activities of speleological societies, caving groups and karst scientists.

International cave exploration is important for:

- discovering new caves and extending the exploration of previously known caves;
- investigating their contents, for example, minerals, biota and archaeological and anthropological remains;
- distributing information on karst and caves throughout the world;
- enabling the exchange of safe caving practices;
- assisting in the protection and preservation of caves and karst.

However, visiting cavers must be aware that exploration for new caves by foreigners may not be welcome when local cavers are already exploring the same area or may want to preserve them for future generations.

§ 2. Diplomacy and common sense must be practised.

To avoid misunderstandings by local people, government, and local and national caving organisations in the country where the proposed cave exploration or scientific investigation is to take place, the UIS has prepared the following recommendations:

§ 2.1 Search for local collaboration before leaving your country.

In many cases, it will be necessary to obtain prior official permission in the country to be visited. In addition, as a matter of courtesy it is necessary to inform one or more of the following: the national speleological organisation; the UIS national delegate; local caving club(s); and relevant individuals from whom cooperation is sought. If adequate contact has not been made, then only a small reconnaissance visit is justified.

Results of the expedition should be given to the host party and, in return, it is the hosts' responsibility to acknowledge any results of the expedition used in their future publications.

If possible, organisers should arrange joint expeditions with cavers from the country to be visited. The national spe-

leological organisation will be familiar with the official requirements for visiting expeditions. They will be well versed in the requirements for the lodging of expedition reports and published material, and in the regulations pertaining to the removal to other countries of any samples collected by the expedition from the caves.

§ 2.2 During the expedition follow local laws and customs.

The expedition members must respect the laws of the country and local traditions, and understand that some caves may be sacred sites and have a religious and/or cultural significance; exploration and research studies in these caves may be restricted.

The expedition members should not damage either the karst or its caves. They should, where possible, educate and advise local communities in the protection and preservation of their karst, caves, and cave biota.

§ 2.3 After the expedition.

Samples from the caves and karst should only be collected during the expedition, if prior permission has been obtained, and should only be exported if that is expressly permitted.

As a courtesy, copies of all printed material produced by the expedition, together with the location and maps of the caves, should be sent to the participating caving clubs and the national speleological organisation and/or the UIS national delegate.

Assistance received from organisations within the country visited should be acknowledged in all expedition publications.

§ 2.4 Respect for the work of other groups and individuals.

Before undertaking an expedition to a foreign country, the visitor group should research previous work and/or current exploration by local or foreign cavers, in order not to interfere with current projects.

Credit for previous exploration should be given in expedition reports.

If several groups happen to be working in the same area, then the opportunity should be taken to learn from each other and to coordinate further work.

§ 2.5 Addenda to the UIS Code of Ethics (accepted in Brasilia, Brazil, 2001)

§ 2.5a The UIS urges all their Bureau members and national delegates, who know of any expedition being organised to a foreign country, to immediately contact and inform the national delegate of the target country.

§ 2.5b If a member of the UIS Bureau discovers a violation to its Code of Ethics regarding a foreign expedition, the Bureau member will contact the national delegate of the expedition's country of origin and suggest that the expedition findings and reports should not be accepted in their official publications, and also state that the reports will not be accepted in any UIS-sponsored publication or event.

§ 2.5c For expeditions organised by countries of high speleological development to countries of lower speleological development, the expedition group should do its best to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and to promote local speleological activity.

C: FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF SHOW CAVES

(See also the Memorandum of Understanding between the International Show Caves Association and UIS)

Development of a show cave implies a total change of the local cave environment, as it will be literally transformed into a transport belt for many tourists and leave unavoidable ongoing impact. Despite that, show cave development may be an effective way of conserving a cave from uncontrolled "wild" caving and can result in effective conservation of undeveloped sections of the cave off the tourist route. Show caves also relieve stress on other vulnerable caves in the vicinity. In addition, show caves have an important role in conveying ideas concerning the cave environment and natural sciences, and may assist in the recruitment of new speleologists. Scientific sampling should be performed in show caves if possible, as it deflects impact from equivalent wild caves and the resulting information can be conveyed effectively to the general public.

§ 1. Sustainable show cave development.

The prescriptions and guidelines of the International Show Caves Association, as endorsed by the UIS, should be used to guide development of show caves. The principle should be to utilise removable installations, such as suspended plastic or stainless steel walkways, in preference to more permanent materials such as concrete. High efficiency lighting should be employed, and every effort must be made to conceal cables without damaging the cave. It is essential that the development and subsequent use have absolutely minimum impact on the natural environment of the cave. The principles of sustainable development should be followed.

§ 2. Show cave interpretation should focus on education rather than entertainment.

Show caves have great potential for conveying knowledge and stimulating interest in the natural sciences and in the relationship between caves and human activity. Development of show caves should involve collaboration with speleologists in order to ensure minimum impact and maximum utilization of the cave's educational potential.

§ 3. Cavers and cave scientists should help to maintain the quality of show caves.

The results of research and exploration in the cave and its vicinity should be popularized and made available to show cave management, perhaps on a consulting basis.

D: ADVENTURE, GEO- AND ECO-TOURISM

§ 1. Adventure travel and ecotourism must be traceless and sustainable.

Damage caused by adventure tourism and commercial recreation reduces the legacy bequeathed to future generations. To minimise impact, party size must be restricted, especially in low energy and small caves—less so in river caves—and groups must be controlled by guides who are aware of cave conservation values. Conservation of the cave environment must take precedence over all economic considerations.

§ 2. Competitions should not be held in caves.

Although caving is a sport and has elements of performance, and training is necessary for safety, competitions of any sort are inappropriate in caves, because heavy physical use damages their natural values. Damaging caves in the name of sport is totally unjustified.

E: SCIENTIFIC SAMPLING

The UIS is aware that excessive scientific sampling is occurring within caves and that it is accelerating globally. Likewise, trading in specimens from caves, such as speleothems and fossils, is also occurring.

§ 1. Sampling should only be undertaken by well qualified experts (or their trained assistants) for their own research.

Sampling of rare specimens should be minimized and preferably done in quarries and show caves.

§ 2. Samples and specimens should be neither purchased nor sold.

Trading and private ownership of material from caves should be disapproved of. Such material should be kept in the cave or in a museum. Fossils or specimens in private custody cannot be scientifically studied and published, as this requires that the specimen is available as reference material.

§ 3. Local practice should be followed for permission.

Individual countries may have different rules for scientific sampling and, as with caving, local laws must be respected.

§ 4. Results of research should be passed to international data repositories.

In order to minimize duplicate and unnecessary sampling, research results should be freely available. Analysed samples and specimens must be deposited in a museum or other place where it is curated and made available for other researchers.

§ 5. Specific comments

Living organisms

Cave environments are extreme and subterranean organisms may be correspondingly fragile, vulnerable, and often only present in very low numbers. Thus sampling must be well considered and should generally only be undertaken by well-qualified experts for their own research.

Speleothems

Is someone's transient career more important than an ancient, still-growing in situ speleothem? The irreplaceability of growing and fossil speleothems must be appreciated. The removal of a growing speleothem from a cave means its "life" is ended, as is its value for future appreciation. Speleothems should not be bought (we must not create a market), and without knowledge of the sample's stratigraphic context its scientific value is much reduced.

Sediments

Sediments in a cave form the habitat of many organisms and contain records of past environmental history. Like any other cave deposit, they should be treated with respect and not be trampled or sampled indiscriminately.

Archaeological, fossil, and sub-fossil deposits

These deposits are irreplaceable and of great value to science, and so should only be excavated by qualified professionals after having first obtained official permission. Excavations should remove only a fraction of the deposit of interest to ensure that a major portion is left untouched for future work.

INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF THE UIS



Adopted by the General Assembly to the 5th International Congress of Speleology (Stuttgart, Germany, 1969);
 Modified at the 15th International Congress of Speleology (Kerrville, USA, 2009) and
 the 16th International Congress of Speleology (Brno, Czech Republic, 2013)

Article 1: Preamble

According to the Union Internationale de Spéléologie's Act of Societies Article 11 (official paper of the Republic of Slovenia No. 60/5) created during the 4th International Congress of Speleology in Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, on September 16, 1965, and amended during the session of the General Assembly held on July 23, 2001 in Brasilia DF, Brazil during the 13th International Congress of Speleology, the Union's General Assembly decided to set the Union's stable address in Slovenia and adopted the following:

a) The name of the Society is: Union Internationale de Spéléologie (UIS).

b) The UIS is a legal subject of Slovene law. The UIS headquarters is Postojna, Titov trg 2, Slovenia.

c) The UIS has a logo. It graphically represents the acronym "UIS" with two rectangles above the letters U and S, of the same color as "UIS" (blue or black), and includes the caption "Union Internationale de Spéléologie." The seal of the Society is rectangular in shape, 4.7 x 1.3 cm in size, and contains the UIS logo and the heading "Secrétaire Général."

d) The UIS can be associated with caving and other organizations in Slovenia and abroad.

e) The UIS works on a volunteer basis and is open to public. The UIS publicizes its activities directly by publishing printed reports and/or through public media.

f) The UIS can have real or other property, which must be listed as property of the UIS in the UIS inventory. Property of the UIS can be bought or sold only through the decision of the UIS Bureau.

g) The UIS can be dissolved by a majority vote of its General Assembly where more than 2/3 of delegates of member countries are present. In the case of UIS dissolution, the General Assembly of the UIS will decide to whom the assets, property, and authority of the UIS will belong.

Article 2: Objectives of Internal Regulations

The purpose of these Internal Regulations is to complement the UIS Statutes by establishing the detailed procedures, standards, and obligations of the UIS Bureau and those the Bureau assigns to perform duties for the UIS. Their intent is to promote fellowship among speleologists and cavers around the world, develop all aspects of speleology (scientific, technical, cultural, sporting, social, and economic), and to promote the protection and management of the world's speleological and karst heritage in ways conducive to sustainable development in all locations where caves or speleological activities occur.

Article 3: Official documents of the UIS

The official documents of the UIS include:

- Statutes of the UIS
- Internal Regulations of the UIS
- UIS Code of Ethics for cave exploration and science in foreign countries
- Instructions and General Recommendations for Organizations of International Congresses of Speleology
- Agreements signed with other organizations

Article 4: Extraordinary General Assembly

The guide for the accomplishment of Extraordinary General Assemblies with votes by electronic correspondence is a proposed alternative secured by the current statutes of the UIS. Item (g) of Article 3 of the UIS Statutes foresees voting by correspondence, through letter or telegram, since the original version of the Statutes was written in a time before electronic communication. Considering the current widespread use of electronic means of correspondence, the UIS recommends institution of the present norm to regulate voting through electronic means as another alternative voting method.

The use of votes by E-mail correspondence

E-mail voting can be used to facilitate legitimate decision making by an Extraordinary General Assembly on matters important to the UIS, or on matters which the UIS Bureau either does not have the power to address or would rather consult the General Assembly on before taking a decision.

Convocation and Vote

An Extraordinary General Assembly can be called by the Bureau or by request to the Bureau of at least 10% of the Member Countries of the UIS, as foreseen in the item (d) of Article 4 of the UIS Statutes.

The agenda of the Extraordinary General Assembly is established by Bureau.

The President is the person responsible for writing a Circular Letter to all of the Delegates justifying the need to convoke the Extraordinary General Assembly of the UIS.

The Secretary General sends the President's Circular Letter, together with the agenda for the analysis and vote, to all the Regular and Substitute Delegates of any Member Country of the UIS in good standing with the treasury of the UIS as a first convocation of the Assembly. This should be accompanied with a request to confirm receipt.

The period for voting of the Delegates is 15 (fifteen) days from the first summons and 7 (seven) days from the second one. The deadline for voting will be stated for clarity in the Secretary General's e-mail, including the date and the time by Greenwich Mean Time. If in the period of 15 (fifteen) days the majority of the Delegates with the right to vote, do not present their votes, the Secretary General sends the same President's Circular Letter again, together with the agenda to be voted, as a second summons of the Assembly.

Each Delegate's vote should be sent to the UIS Secretary General within the established period. Delegates who do not vote or vote outside the established period will be registered as abstentions. A Delegate that has voted in the first summons is released from voting in the second summons, unless the Delegate's position has altered. If a Delegate votes in response to both summonses, the second vote will be considered the Delegate's true and final vote.

Scrutiny of the voting

The scrutiny of the voting is responsibility of the UIS Secretary General. To be considered valid, the votes of the Delegates must be clearly stated (YES, NO or ABSTENTION) with no comments or conditions.

Each UIS Member Country has a right to only one vote on each issue brought forward for a vote. If both the Regular and Substitute Delegate for a Member Country vote on the same issue, the Substitute Delegate's vote will only be counted if the Regular Delegate doesn't vote within the established period.

The results will be determined by a simple majority of received valid votes.

General dispositions

The Secretary General has the obligation to file all of the documents of the summons process, voting, and scrutiny of the voting, for consideration during the next Ordinary General Assembly of the Union.

The Secretary General has the obligation to implement the results of the Extraordinary General Assembly and to inform the international speleological community. Within 15 (fifteen) days after the deadline for the vote, the results of the vote should be sent to the UIS Bureau and all UIS Delegates. The results should be published in the next edition of the UIS Bulletin and presented in the next updating of the UIS Website. Within 30 (thirty) days after the deadline for the vote, the results should be formally sent to all the national federations and associations of all the UIS Member Countries, as well as for their respective publications in the form of a publishable article.

All resolutions approved by an Extraordinary General Assembly with voting by electronic correspondence should be confirmed by the next Ordinary General Assembly of the UIS.

In the case of a tie vote, the power of decision rests with the President of the UIS, at least until the next Ordinary General Assembly of the Union.

Article 5: Bureau Responsibilities and Powers

The UIS Bureau is responsible for:

- Analyzing, and approving or disapproving, new organizations as Associated and Affiliated Organizations. These analyses must be made at Bureau meetings.
- Defining the policies for publicizing the UIS.
- Defining the policies governing UIS Internet facilities.
- Proposing new UIS Honorary Bureau Members, but it is necessary for those people to be approved by the General Assembly.
- Copying to the respective nation's Delegate all official letters to a national federation and/or society of a Member Country.
- Requesting three detailed reports each year from the Organizing Committee of each International Congress of Speleology for the archives of the UIS and for evaluating the Organizing Committee's progress. The Bureau may request more reports if it believes more information is necessary.
- Collaborating constructively with the Organizing Committee of every International Congress of Speleology to establish the Congress program. The Bureau will supply a copy of the Instructions and General Recommendations for Organizers

of International Congresses of Speleology, to each Organizing Committee. If the elected country is unable or potentially unable to successfully host the Congress, the Bureau has the right and duty to convene an Extraordinary General Assembly to review the situation and possibly change the country responsible for the Congress.

Conduct of UIS Bureau meetings:

- Quorum: A Bureau meeting requires the participation of at least five members, otherwise Bureau members present may discuss UIS business but cannot make any decisions.
- All Bureau decisions can be approved by a simple majority of the Bureau members present at a meeting. The President will cast the deciding vote in the case of a tie.
- The Bureau may hold discussions, conduct business, and make decisions by e-mail between Bureau meetings. For such business to be valid, all Bureau members must be copied on the messages. Any Bureau member may make a motion for a vote by e-mailing, sending the motion to all Bureau members and providing a reasonable date and time (set to Greenwich Mean Time) by which the Bureau members must respond for their votes to be counted. The motion is considered a "yes" vote and the first supporting response is also considered a "yes" vote and a second to the motion. A decision is valid once the Secretary General has tallied the votes after the deadline and those results are confirmed by the President and reported to the Bureau. As with regular Bureau meetings, a simple majority is needed for a motion to pass and at least five members of the Bureau must participate.
- The Bureau may hold open and closed meetings, including discussions by e-mail. As much as possible, meetings should be open. Open meetings can be attended by any member of the UIS or any person interested in UIS affairs. Closed meetings will include only the currently elected members of the Bureau and can be called by any Bureau member. A simple majority vote of the Bureau can refer a topic to an open meeting. During meetings where Bureau members are physically present, all topics for the closed portion of the meeting should be scheduled for one closed session.

Conclusion of Bureau membership:

- At the end of a Bureau member's term in office, all UIS documents, finances, and property in the member's possession must be transferred to the Secretary General of the new Bureau.

Article 6: President's Responsibilities and Powers

The President:

- is, with the Secretary General, responsible for the function of the UIS Bureau between sessions of the General Assembly;
- presides at all meetings of the Bureau and the General Assembly;
- represents the UIS in all situations where it appears as an international organization;
- raises the profile of the UIS among speleologists, publicizes the work of the UIS, and generally carries out the Publicity Policy which has been determined by the Bureau;
- advises the members of the Bureau and ensures that the work of the Bureau, Secretary General, and Commissions are in agreement with the directives of the General Assembly;
- designates UIS representatives for any event at which he will not be present;

- oversees the utilization of UIS funds after the approval by the Bureau;
- presents a report of the activities of the UIS at every General Assembly;
- coordinates the selection of two commissioners by the General Assembly to verify the financial report of the Treasurer – these commissioners must be Delegates of countries other than that which the Treasurer represents;
- sends copies of all formal UIS correspondence signed by him to the Secretary General.

Article 7: Vice-Presidents' Responsibilities and Powers

The Vice-Presidents:

- replace the UIS President on his written demand or in the case that the President is not able to carry out his duties. They must report on all their activities in detail to the UIS President;
- assist the President when requested and collaborate with the Secretary General whenever necessary;
- represent the UIS at all UIS-supported events whenever the President cannot be present;
- should encourage and regulate the commissions and sub-commissions of the UIS and receive regular reports of their activities;
- regularly exchange information with the President and the Secretary General, keeping them informed of their actions;
- send copies of all formal correspondence signed by them to the President and Secretary General.

Appointment of Vice-Presidents:

- Upon the creation of a new Bureau, the Bureau will appoint one Vice-President as Vice-President of Administration. The additional responsibilities and powers of the Vice-President of Administration are to:
 - a) coordinate and communicate with the Organizing Committee of each International Congress of Speleology and other international meetings supported by the UIS in the establishment of their programs;
 - b) coordinate and communicate with the UIS Commissions, Committees, Working Groups, and other internal UIS organizations to ensure that all groups are active, productive, reporting their results to the Bureau on a regular basis, and publishing their results as available;
 - c) assist and rehabilitate International Congress Organizing Committees and UIS internal organizations as needed;
 - d) recommend to the Bureau that Organizing Committees and UIS internal organizations continue to be supported by the UIS or be disbanded if they are inactive or not functioning in a way that supports the goals and standards of the UIS;
 - e) assign, if the position is vacant, a Librarian for the Documentation Center of the UIS and communicate with that person on a regular basis to insure the Center is active, functioning properly, and that it meets the needs and purposes of the UIS.
- Upon the creation of a new Bureau, the Bureau will appoint one Vice-President as Vice-President of Operations. The additional responsibilities and powers of the Vice-President of Operations are to:
 - a) assign, if the position is vacant, a person as Website Manager to coordinate and maintain the UIS website, and communicate with that person on a regular basis to ensure the website is active, productive, up-to-date, easy to use, informative, and reflects the goals and standards of the UIS;
 - b) assign, if the position is vacant, a person as Technical

Manager to attend to the technical aspects of the UIS Internet facilities, and communicate with that person on a regular basis to ensure the facilities are properly operational and secure;

c) assign, if the position is vacant, a person as Chief Editor of the UIS Bulletin who will be responsible for its publication and distribution, and communicate with that person on a regular basis to ensure the Bulletin is produced and distributed on time, within its budget, and is professional in appearance, informative, and reflects the goals and standards of the UIS;

d) assign, if the position is vacant, a person as Chief Editor of the International Journal of Speleology who will be responsible for its publication and distribution, and communicate with that person on a regular basis to insure the Journal is produced and distributed on time and within its budget, maintains a high professional international standard in appearance, content, and scientific recognition, and reflects the goals and standards of the UIS;

e) regularly review the content of all UIS printed and electronic publications, including the website, and coordinate as needed with the President and Secretary General on their policy and content;

f) replace any person in an assigned publication or Internet position, following consultation and approval by the President and Secretary General, if the person is not able or willing to perform their assignment or in a manner consistent with UIS goals and standards.

Article 8: Secretary General's Responsibilities and Powers

The Secretary General:

- is responsible for the functioning of the Bureau in relation to all technical and financial affairs, as well as the execution of actions determined by the Bureau;
- as Treasurer of the UIS, he is authorized to receive, manage and delegate the finances of the UIS;
- may appoint someone to serve as UIS Treasurer, with the approval of the Bureau, but will retain responsibility for UIS financial affairs and the performance of the appointed Treasurer (all tasks and responsibilities assigned in this document to the Treasurer will apply to the Secretary General and any appointed UIS Treasurer);
- represents the UIS at all events with official support of the UIS whenever both the President and the Vice-Presidents cannot be present, without the need for a special request by the President;
- reports the minutes of the meetings of the Bureau and of the General Assemblies. Within a maximum of 30 (thirty) days after a Bureau meeting, he will send the minutes of each meeting of the Bureau to all Bureau members. Within a maximum of 90 (ninety) days after a General Assembly, the minutes of the General Assembly will be made public so that necessary actions can be taken and information about the UIS is made available. These same time limits apply for sending the minutes or other documents to the Website Manager for inclusion on the UIS website;
- preserves the essential documents of the UIS and must pass these documents on to his successor. These documents include principally protocols and agreements, minutes, reports, files, and accounts;
- sends a copy of all new documentation at the end of each term of office of the 4-year mandate period to the archives of the UIS at the UIS headquarters at the Karst Research Institute in Slovenia;
- maintains contact with all representatives of the

Member Countries of the UIS through the website, and by e-mail when rapid notification is necessary and/or the website is not operating, and with national or regional groups, scientific societies, institutes and research centers, as well as isolated researchers and international organizations;

- coordinates the distribution of information of general interest which he receives or that he solicits from correspondents;
- submits a report, at the beginning of each International Congress, summarizing his activities to the General Assembly, as well as the financial balance and an analysis of the existing problems and solutions proposed by the Bureau;
- sends copies of all formal correspondence, which is of general interest to the UIS, to the President.

Article 9: Adjunct Secretaries' Responsibilities and Powers

The Adjunct Secretaries:

- should be eight;
- serve as voting members of the UIS Bureau and are the primary people consulted by the President, Vice-Presidents, and Secretary General on UIS issues and decisions;
- represent the UIS at all events with the official support of the UIS, either in their country or in any country of their region, whenever the President, one of the Vice-Presidents, or the Secretary General cannot be present, even without any special request by the President;
- should assist the President and Secretary General as requested in all activities of interest to the UIS;
- should regularly exchange information with the President and Secretary General, keeping them informed of their actions, and must provide a detailed report to the Bureau on their activities since the last International Congress of Speleology to a short time before the beginning of the next International Congress of Speleology.

Article 10: Invited Adjunct Secretaries' Responsibilities and Power

The Bureau, by simple majority vote, may appoint people from member countries not represented on the Bureau to serve as Invited Adjunct Secretaries. These members have all of the rights, duties, and privileges of Adjunct Secretaries, except they cannot vote.

The Bureau will elect Invited Adjunct Secretaries for the following reasons:

- to fill an elected Bureau position that is vacant due to illness, death, resignation, or removal of the Bureau member elected by the General Assembly;
- to create a representative from the Bureau in the country which maintains the UIS bank account, in the event the General Assembly does not elect a Bureau member from that country;
- to create a representative from the Bureau in the country which will host the upcoming International Congress of Speleology, in the event the General Assembly does not elect a Bureau member from that country;
- to fulfill other needs of the UIS, as deemed necessary, which are not met by other elected and non-elected offices of the UIS.

Article 11: Past Presidents' Responsibilities and Powers

Past Presidents are normally included as Honorary Members of the Bureau.

Article 12: Honorary Presidents' Responsibilities and Powers

Honorary Presidents are appointed by the General Assembly. The Honorary Presidents have the right to be heard at meetings and thus serve as advisors to the Bureau, but they do not have the right to vote.

Article 13: Honorary Bureau Members' Responsibilities and Powers

Honorary Members of the Bureau (excluding past Presidents) are recommended by the Bureau, based on their contributions to the development of speleology, and are appointed by the General Assembly. The Honorary Members have the right to be heard at meetings and thus serve as advisors to the Bureau, but they do not have the right to vote.

Article 14: Awards of the UIS

This UIS gives awards to recognize excellent and/or long-standing service to the UIS and/or speleology in general. The General Assembly gives the UIS Bureau the authority to select the people receiving the awards in order to protect the privacy, dignity, and integrity of the selection process and the nominees. There are three award categories: Fellowship, Honorary List, and Prizes.

Fellowships are the highest award given by the UIS in recognition of outstanding contributions to speleology and/or the UIS. The Honorary List acknowledges people who have significantly contributed to the development of speleology and/or the UIS.

Nominees for Fellowships or the Honorary List may be submitted to the UIS Bureau or from within the UIS Bureau. Each nomination must include information with the person's qualifications and justifications for nomination. During a closed session of the UIS Bureau meeting, the UIS Bureau will select which people will receive a Fellowship or be added to the Honorary List. The selection will occur at the UIS Bureau meeting one year before an International Congress of Speleology to allow time to create certificates for those selected, and for notification of the selectees so they have adequate time to plan and attend the congress where they will be formally recognized at the first session of the General Assembly. The names of the selectees will be kept confidential until announced at the congress.

Prizes are given at the International Congress of Speleology for specific accomplishments at the congress or during the period since the previous congress. Prizes may be given for outstanding books, scientific posters presented at the congress, and other contributions to speleology as determined appropriate by a Prize Committee appointed by the UIS Bureau. The Prize Committee will also decide the number of prizes, who will receive them, the nature of the prize (e.g. certificate, medal, funds, etc.), and other conditions as necessary per the unique materials and accomplishments present at a congress or since the previous congress. The prizes are not competitive and not related to the cartographic, photographic, athletic, and other competitions at the congresses. More than one prize may be given for a category, and prizes will not be given if the Prize Committee does find accomplishments worthy of the recognition.

Article 15: Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee consists of 5 (five) members invited by the Bureau, although they do not actually belong to the elected Bureau.

The members of the Advisory Committee will be asked to

give their opinions about important decisions of the Bureau of the UIS when asked to do so by the Bureau.

The members of the Advisory Committee can participate in the meetings of the Bureau and have the right to be heard.

All members of the Advisory Committee are automatically relieved of their duties upon termination of the term of the Bureau which appointed them.

The members of the Advisory Committee can be invited to serve as members of Advisory Committee for subsequent Bureaus.

Article 16: Member Countries

A country is a region legally identified as a distinct political geographic entity as reported by the United Nations list of countries. In order to take into account different situations inherited from the past or for any other exceptional case, the Bureau may accept exceptions from this rule which must be endorsed by the General Assembly.

A new country can be admitted into the UIS by making a formal request. This request should be printed on letterhead paper and sent to the Secretary General of the UIS. It must contain the name of the organization submitting the request, as well as information about it and data and publications showing that it is representative of speleology in the country; letters of support from delegates of UIS member countries in good standing may also be submitted. The request must indicate the names of the delegates and include the funds for the payment of the first annual fee (or a promise of payment at the upcoming ICS), as well as making it clear that the organization will respect the Statutes and standards of the UIS. The Bureau will review all membership applications and if they are found acceptable the Bureau will recommend them to the General Assembly for approval.

Any country where speleology is practiced, whatever its level of development, can apply to join the UIS. The acceptance of a new Member Country is ratified by the General Assembly.

Each Member Country must appoint two Delegates (Regular and Substitute) to represent that country in the UIS and to participate in the General Assemblies.

Each Member Country must agree to pay the annual affiliation fees to the UIS. A country that has not paid all of its fees will not be allowed to participate in the General Assembly as a voting member.

The UIS encourages the sustainable use of the world's speleological heritage and thus supports the initiatives of its Delegates and their affiliated entities in projects designed for such purposes in their home countries, while simultaneously respecting the legislation of each Member Country.

Once a new Member Country is formally accepted, the Secretary General of the UIS must communicate this fact in the UIS Bulletin and on the web site, and send the new Delegate a copy of all of the official documents of the UIS. The delegate of the Member Country will be sent the UIS logo for use by that country's speleological organizations to show affiliation with the UIS, but the logo may not be used for the organization's events without requesting permission as described in Article 30 below.

A Member Country that fails to communicate with the UIS or pay its fees for more than 5 (five) years may be removed

from the UIS by a vote of the General Assembly following a recommendation by the Bureau. At such a time, the Member Country may immediately apply for reinstatement by a different national organization from that country along with payment for all unpaid fees. If the unpaid fees cannot be paid at that time, the national organization must wait until the next International Congress to reapply, at which time past unpaid fees will not be owed unless reinstatement is requested by the national organization that developed the debt.

Article 17: Associated Speleological Organizations

Associated Speleological Organizations are international speleological organizations composed of national organizations within a geographic region that represent individual speleologists or speleological organizations. These international organizations may request association with the UIS on their stationary in letters containing the name of the organization, data about the organization's origin, goals, membership and activities, and a statement that the organization supports the goals and Code of Ethics of the UIS. An official representative must be indicated, the letter must be sent to the President or the Secretary General of the UIS. Acceptance follows a majority vote by the UIS Bureau and is in effect at that time, but requires ratification by the next General Assembly.

The official representatives of Associated Speleological Organizations have the right to participate in the General Assemblies of the UIS and open UIS Bureau meetings with the right to be heard, but without the right to vote. Members of the UIS Bureau have the right to participate in the assemblies and open meetings of the Associated Speleological Organizations with the right to be heard, but without the right to vote.

The establishment of new Associated Speleological Organizations will be communicated by the Secretary General of the UIS in the UIS Bulletin and on the UIS website. The Associated Speleological Organizations will communicate their association with the UIS to their members through their publications and websites. Copies of all official documents of the UIS and the Associated Speleological Organization will be exchanged between the organizations.

Article 18: Affiliated Organizations

Affiliated Organizations include institutes and other bodies supporting the goals of the UIS. These are not national speleological organizations but may include private companies as well as non-profit organizations.

Affiliated Organizations should appoint a representative to the UIS.

The official representatives of Affiliated Organizations have the right to participate in the General Assemblies of the UIS, with the right to be heard, but without the right to vote.

- Each Affiliated Organization will pay the annual affiliation fee to the UIS. The fee will be negotiated between the UIS Bureau and the candidate Affiliated Organization, and at a minimum the fee must equal the fee for Category A member nations of the UIS. At the discretion of the UIS Bureau, an Affiliated Organization that provides the UIS with its offices or other major service does not need to pay the annual fee.

- Each Affiliated Organization will publish information about the UIS in their respective publications.

For the affiliation of a new organization, a formal state-

ment of the desire for admission into the UIS is required. This request must be printed on letterhead paper, containing the name of the organization, and must be sent to the President or the Secretary General of the UIS. Provisional acceptance follows a majority vote by the UIS Bureau and all rights and obligations of the organization go into effect at that time; full acceptance requires ratification by the next General Assembly, which has the right to support or reject the Bureau's decision. The request must contain data about the organization and a brief account showing how it is representative of speleology of the country. An official representative must be indicated, and the organization must agree to respect the Statutes and standards of the UIS, as well as to pay the annual fees once affiliation is approved. Non-payment of the annual fees for more than two consecutive years will result in the loss of affiliation; the organization may reapply for affiliation.

The affiliation of new organizations will be communicated by the Secretary General of the UIS in the UIS Bulletin, and on the website, and copies of all official documents of the UIS will be sent to the official representative of the organization.

Each Affiliated Organization has the right to non-commercial use of the logotype of the UIS on their documents to show their affiliation to the UIS.

Article 19: Delegates

National Delegates:

- represent speleology in their respective countries at the General Assembly of the UIS.
- are responsible for the exchange of information between the UIS (Bureau, Commissions, Committees, and Working Groups) and the organized speleological groups of their respective countries.
- are directly responsible for ensuring the payment of the annual fees of the respective countries to the Treasurer of the UIS.
- are responsible for the circulation of documents and circulars sent by the President and/or Secretary General to the speleological community in their respective countries.
- are directly responsible for the presence and official representation of the UIS at speleological events in their countries, respecting the orientation and decisions of the UIS as reported by the President.
- have the obligation to collaborate in updating of the Karst Information Portal and Speleological Bibliographical Bulletin by sending a list of publications in their respective countries to the President of the Bibliographic Commission of the UIS.
- have the right to participate in the meetings of the Bureau, although they do not have the right to vote.

Article 20: Department Presidents

The election of presidents for the various departments is outlined in the UIS Statutes. It is the responsibility of the President of each Department to:

- present an oral report of the activities of his Department at each General Assembly of the UIS;
- submit a written report of the activities of his Department at each General Assembly of the UIS for documentation in the UIS archives;
- submit a written report of the activities of his Department whenever requested by the Bureau, especially for inclusion in the official report of the activities of the UIS to UNESCO, or other activities assumed by the Bureau.

The President of each Department, or someone delegated by him/her, has the right to use space on the UIS website for

Department web pages.

Article 21: Presidents of Commissions, Committees and Working Groups

Presidents of the Commissions, Committees, and Working Groups will be elected by their respective members. It is the responsibility of the President of each Commission, Committee or Working Group to:

- present an oral report of the activities of the group at each General Assembly of the UIS;
- submit a written report of the activities of the group at each General Assembly for documentation in the UIS archives;
- submit a written report of the activities of the group whenever requested by the UIS Bureau or the President of the Department;
- send scientific reports or papers produced by the group to the UIS Secretary General, Documentation Center, and website, and the Karst Information Portal;
- reply in a timely fashion to communications sent by the members of the UIS Bureau or other people interested in the Commission's, Committee's, or Working Group's activities;
- communicate and promote cooperation internationally with people who are interested in the topics of the Commission, Committee or Working Group;
- submit information about the group directly to the UIS Website Manager to update the UIS website.

Presidents are encouraged to delegate these and other responsibilities to their members for greater effectiveness. The UIS Bureau may require a Commission, Committee or Working Group to deactivate, reorganize, or select new officers if the above responsibilities are not met.

The President of each Commission, Committee, or Working Group, or someone delegated by them, has the right to use space on the UIS website for their group's web pages.

The term "Working Group" above refers to formal Working Groups of the UIS instituted at a General Assembly of the UIS, not to the internal Working Groups which may be formed from time to time by and within Commissions, Committees, or Working Groups of the UIS.

Article 22: UIS Bulletin

The UIS Bulletin is the official publication for publicizing the activities of the UIS and the state of the art of international speleology.

The UIS Bulletin will be published twice a year, but this frequency can be increased if deemed necessary.

The publishing, printing and distribution of the UIS Bulletin are conducted under the direction of the UIS Vice-President of Operations.

The UIS Bulletin will be primarily distributed in electronic form but with archival paper copies sent to the UIS Documentation Center in La Chaux-de-Fonds, the UIS permanent headquarters in Postojna, and to any of the people, organizations, or facilities listed below that cannot receive the UIS Bulletin in electronic form and requests a paper copy. An electronic copy of each edition will be sent to:

1. The Documentation Center of the UIS in La Chaux-de-Fonds;
2. The permanent headquarters of the UIS in Postojna;
3. Each member of the UIS Bureau;
4. Each Delegate of the Member Countries;
5. Each President of a UIS Department, Commission, Com-

mittee, or Working Group;

6. Each of the Associated and Affiliated Organizations; and
7. All libraries in the Member Countries registered with the UIS.
8. The UIS Website Manager for inclusion on the UIS website.
9. The Karst Information Portal.

The following material must be published in the UIS Bulletin:

- The proceedings of all Regular or Extraordinary General Assemblies of the UIS, as well as all official meetings of the Bureau (in the first issue published after the event).
- The reports of the activities of the Bureau, the Departments, and the Commissions, Committees and Working Groups presented at the assemblies of the UIS.
- All official documents of the UIS whenever these are modified and/or updated. These documents include the Statutes, the Internal Regulations, the Code of Ethics, and Norms, as well as agreements and contracts.
- Calendar of speleological events scheduled in the Member Countries of which the UIS has officially been informed.
- Up-to-date list of Member Countries and Associated and Affiliated Organizations of the UIS immediately after each General Assembly of the UIS, and after each change.
- Up-to-date list of the Delegates of the UIS, with their addresses, immediately after each UIS General Assembly, and after each change.
- List of UIS publications.
- List of UIS membership fees.

The following material is recommended for publication in the UIS Bulletin:

- List of speleological records, e.g. longest and deepest.
- List of new publications.
- Updates to the list of Member Countries and Associated and Affiliated Organizations of the UIS.
- Updates to the list of UIS delegates.
- Schedule of meetings of commissions, committees and working groups.
- List of publications in speleology and related areas.

Advertisements can be published in the UIS Bulletin as long as:

- There is no conflict of interest with the UIS or any of its regulations, goals, or standards.
- The advertiser pays for the space utilized.
- The space utilized by the advertisement is not out of proportion in relation to the other information being published.

Article 23: International Journal of Speleology

The International Journal of Speleology is a peer-reviewed multidisciplinary scientific publication of the highest international standard.

The publication, printing and distribution of the International Journal of Speleology is delegated to a society or national federation of one of the member countries of the UIS by means of a specific agreement approved by the UIS Bureau.

The organization responsible for the publication, printing, and distribution of the International Journal of Speleology will appoint someone as a Chief Editor responsible for maintaining contact with the UIS Bureau through the UIS Vice-President of Operations and will select an Editorial Staff and advise the UIS Bureau of its members.

Special editions can be organized by a Guest Editor.

The occurrence of international speleological events officially supported by the UIS may justify the organization of additional special issues of the International Journal of Speleology.

The International Journal of Speleology supplements the scientific reports or papers produced by the Commissions, Committees, and Working Groups, but it cannot take their place.

Special editions can be organized with the agreement of the responsible organization, the Chief Editor, and the Presidents of Departments, Commissions, Committees, or Working Groups to present the result of work and/or studies developed by these organizations of the UIS.

For each published issue of the International Journal of Speleology, at least one copy must be sent to the UIS Documentation Center in La Chaux-de-Fonds, the UIS permanent headquarters in Postojna, and to each of the Associated and Affiliated Organizations. An electronic copy should be available from the Journal's website.

Article 24: Bulletin Bibliographique Spéléologique/ Speleological Abstracts

Speleological Abstracts, the Bulletin Bibliographique Spéléologique, is a publication that annually lists and abstracts all publications related to speleology within a given year. It is produced to facilitate research and the study of speleology and is available both in electronic form from its website and in printed form.

Speleological Abstracts is the responsibility of the President of the Bibliography Commission of the UIS, who coordinates with the UIS Vice-President of Administration.

Speleological Abstracts is regularly updated electronically. Special collaborators are invited from each Member Country, as well as the assistance provided by the UIS Delegates.

The UIS Treasurer is required to provide financing for the publication, printing and distribution of the Speleological Abstracts.

Article 25: Karst Information Portal

The Karst Information Portal (KIP) is a project that the UIS conducts with the National Cave and Karst Research Institute (NCKRI) of the USA, University of New Mexico (UNM), and the University of South Florida (USF) as part of the signed agreement of the Karst Information Portal Consortium (KIP-C). Based on that agreement, KIP's "purpose is to organize, manage, and generally make available data on caves, karst, and related phenomena, and provide a collaborative forum for the exchange of ideas and information on such topics, all in an international virtual environment known as the Karst Information Portal (KIP). These services are provided for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes that support effective and sustainable research, utilization, and management of caves, karst, and related resources. The KIP-C reserves the right not to distribute certain information if it could result in the exploitation or degradation of cave, karst or related resources."

The agreement further states "The role of the UIS is to develop communication, collaborations, and data linkages and exchanges between the KIP-C and the international community of cave and karst researchers, managers, and explorers. The UIS will link its website and cave and karst databases to the

KIP-C, and will actively promote similar action by its members, as well as international non-member individuals and organizations. The UIS will inform the KIP-C of any relevant international activities and will inform the international cave and karst community of the KIP-C's activities. The UIS will assist in providing language translations when needed by the KIP-C."

The UIS will appoint a member of the Bureau to serve as the representative to the KIP-C and to work with UIS Officers, Bureau Members, Delegates, Departments, Committees, Working Groups, Associated and Affiliated Organizations, and other individuals, projects, and programs of UIS to support the KIP as stated in the KIP-C agreement.

Article 26: Documentation Center of the UIS

The Documentation Center of the UIS is a library composed of speleological and related publications from around the world.

The Documentation Center of the UIS must maintain complete collections of all official publications of the UIS: Proceedings of the ICS, UIS Bulletin, International Journal of Speleology, Speleological Abstracts, scientific reports or papers produced by the Commissions, Committees and Working groups, etc.

The organization and maintenance of the Documentation Center of the UIS is delegated to one of the national societies or federations of one of the member countries of the UIS, by means of a special agreement approved by the UIS Bureau until such time as the UIS will be able to maintain this center at the permanent headquarters.

The organization responsible for the Documentation Center of the UIS can nominate a Librarian, who will be responsible for the maintenance of contacts with the UIS Bureau through the UIS Vice-President of Administration.

The Librarian is responsible for the presentation of an oral report about the present situation of the Documentation Center of the UIS, as well as a written report containing an index of the publications available at the center, at each UIS General Assembly for inclusion in the UIS archives.

The Librarian is responsible for sending an up-to-date list of the publications available at the Center to the UIS Bureau, as well as to the UIS website, whenever any significant change occurs.

Article 27: Archive of the UIS

The UIS Archive is located in the Institute of Karst Research, ZRS SAZU, Postojna, Slovenia.

The UIS Archive collects all paper and electronic documents dealing with UIS activities, i.e. activities of the UIS Bureau, its members, commissions and working groups, and Advisory Committee.

The UIS Archive collects all materials obtained by library exchange with other bodies.

The UIS Archive collects all publications (proceedings, books, journals, leaflets, etc.) produced with the logo of the UIS without respect to the address of the publisher. The responsible editor of such publications must deliver two copies to the UIS Archive in Postojna.

All regular members of the UIS Bureau (President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary General, Treasurer, Adjunct Secretaries)

will deliver all paper and electronic materials involving their activity with the UIS Bureau to the UIS Archive: (a) every 2-3 years, and/or (b) when their term of office is complete, if the materials are not delivered to their successors.

Honorary members of the UIS Bureau will deliver all paper and electronic materials involving their activity with the UIS Bureau to the UIS Archive every 2-3 years.

Presidents of UIS Commissions and Working Groups will deliver all paper and electronic materials dealing with the activities of their respective UIS bodies to the UIS Archive: (a) every 2-3 years, and/or (b) after they finished their term as President, if not delivered to their successors.

The UIS Archive is managed by a member of the UIS Bureau charged by the UIS Bureau. The charged member is responsible for the organization and management of the UIS Archive.

The UIS Bureau can establish regional archives of the UIS. This act does not relieve respective UIS persons and bodies from also delivering identical materials to the UIS Archive in Postojna.

Article 28: UIS Internet facilities

The policies governing the UIS Internet Facilities are the responsibility of the Bureau.

The UIS Internet facilities consist principally of UIS' domain name "uis-speleo.org", websites, emailing lists (listservers), generic email address redirections, web-based databases, and the supporting Domain Name Service (DNS).

Responsibilities

The policies governing the UIS Internet Facilities are the responsibility of the Bureau.

For the proper operation and updating of the Internet Facilities, and to share the workload, volunteers may be invited to take responsibilities in the management of specific tasks. For example, Website Manager, Technical Manager, Calendar Editor, Addresses Manager, Listserver Managers, Database Managers, and any others that may be needed.

All the positions should be invited by the UIS Officer to whom they are responsible.

Website

The UIS Website is the official electronic medium for the presentation of information of the activities of the Union and the state of international speleology.

The policy and content of the UIS website are direct responsibilities of the UIS President together with the UIS Secretary General through the Vice-President of Operations.

The day-to-day management of the website is carried out by the Website Manager.

The basic design policy for the website is:

- To provide the user with UIS information which is easily found, up-to-date, fast and navigable, using any web browser.
- To be avoided are special effects or heavy graphics which slow down the user's browser, limit browser type, or require special add-ons.
- Large graphics such as photos should be used only

where the user can choose whether to view them or not.

- The directory structure for the website should allow for the separation of login access rights between the various people responsible for updating various aspects of the website, for example, addresses, calendar, a commission's own pages, etc.

Website contents

The following are to be included on the UIS website:

- The UIS Bulletin;
- UIS Official Documents (if possible, in all of the official languages of the UIS, as well as any others to which they are translated);
 - At least one page for each Commission, Committee, or Working Group, if they do not have their own website;
- List of publications of the UIS specifying the edition, year of publication, and those responsible for them, including the UIS Bulletin, the International Journal of Speleology, the Speleological Abstracts, scientific reports or papers prepared by the Commissions, Committees and Working Groups, etc.;
- List of the publications available in the UIS Documentation Center;
- Names of members of the UIS Bureau, the Departments, the Commissions, Committees and Working Groups;
- Up-to-date list of the Delegates, Member Countries, and Associated and Affiliated Organizations;
- Minutes of the Assemblies and of all meetings of the Bureau;
- History of the UIS (List of all Congresses, all past UIS Bureau, past and present versions of documents, etc.);
- List of addresses;
- Links to speleological sites;
- Schedule of speleological events supported by the UIS;
- List of projects under development;
- Other items of speleological interest.

Commission Websites

The UIS website can provide space for the websites of Bureau Officers and all UIS Departments, Commissions, and Working Groups who request it, provided they obey the following rules:

- They request the space for the website and the setup access directly from the Website Manager.
- They define who is responsible for the website.
- They prepare the web pages before sending them to the Website Manager, or alternatively they directly update their own material on the website whenever possible.
- They follow the Bureau and UIS website policies when preparing their web pages.
- All the content of the website must be relevant to the Bureau function, Department, Commission or Work Group who has requested the space.
- The website should not contain advertisements, personal promotion or material outside the interest of UIS.
- The website must not be used for any commercial purpose without explicit written permission from the Bureau.

Listservers

Emailing listservers can be set up to facilitate discussion and information dissemination on various speleological and administrative topics. Each is generally configured and maintained by its own Listserv Manager. The list-server and topics must be directly related to the purpose of the UIS group responsible for it.

Email redirections

Generic email address redirections allow generic addresses such as "president@uis-speleo.org" to be automatically redirected to the current President's address. These redirections are

maintained by the Technical Manager.

Databases

Web-based databases can be used to facilitate speleological and administrative purposes, for example, the Caver's Multi-lingual Dictionary and UIS addresses. Each is generally configured and maintained by its own Database Manager.

Technical Manager

The Technical Manager is responsible to the Bureau via the President. The Technical Manager's responsibilities are:

- Technical design and management of the Internet facilities.
- Liaison with the provider of the Internet facilities.
- Administration of the Domain Name registration entry.
- Ensuring effective backup arrangements for the facilities.
- Ensuring effective security arrangements for the facilities.
- Ensuring as much as practicable the ease of transferring the facilities to another site if that becomes necessary. For example, by the use of open-source and commonly used software.
- Technical advice to the Bureau and other UIS officers as requested.
- Initial creation of basic emailing lists (listservers) as requested.
- Updating of generic email redirections when advised by the Addresses Manager.
- Initial creation of basic Internet databases as required, and setup of software authorization for their management.
- Setup of website access for Commission Presidents and others who will be uploading their own material on to the website, upon request from the Website Manager.

Website Manager

The Website Manager is responsible to the President together with the Secretary General. The Website Manager's responsibilities are:

- Preparation and loading of website content in accordance with Bureau policy and upon request by the President and/or Secretary General;
- Uploading the pages received from the UIS Calendar Editor and the Addresses Manager, although these uploads could be delegated directly to the Calendar and Address Managers if preferred by the Website Manager;
- Managing (but not loading) the loading of web pages by Commission Presidents, Publicity Officer, and the like;
- Other day-to-day operation of the web site.

Calendar Editor

The Calendar Editor is responsible to the Secretary General. The Calendar Editor's responsibilities are:

- Soliciting and receiving information about new speleological events;
- Publicizing UIS' calendar facility;
- Operation of the calendar database;
- Design of the Calendar web pages;
- Loading or supplying updated calendar pages to the website.

Addresses Manager

The Addresses Manager is responsible to the Secretary General. The Addresses Manager's responsibilities are:

- Publicizing the procedures for address updates for UIS and relevant Country Officers.
- Receiving updates for people, organizations and positions.
- Operating the address database.
- Loading or supplying updated address and related web pages to the website.
- Supplying address list facilities to other UIS officers, for example, files to the UIS Secretary General for printing postage labels.
- Updating email addresses in any closed listservers

(emailing lists) which are being used by the Bureau.

Listserver Managers

- The appointment of a Listserver Manager is the responsibility of the group who will be using the listserver.
- The responsibilities of a Listserver Manager are the configuration and management of the emailing listserver for which they have volunteered.
- The initial creation of the basic listserver and the software authorization for its Manager will be performed by the Technical Manager.

Database Managers

- The appointment of a Database Manager is the responsibility of the UIS Officer or group who will be using the database.
- The responsibilities of a Database Manager are to arrange for the analysis, design, construction, configuration and day-to-day management of the database for which they have volunteered. They have the option of doing the work themselves or arranging for other people to help them. They may or may not be responsible for routine data entry or updating.
- The initial creation of the basic database and the software authorization for its Manager will be performed by the Technical Manager.

Article 29: International Speleological Congresses

The ICSs are conducted once every four years and organized by a Member Country whose proposal is analyzed and chosen by vote during the General Assembly of the UIS. They are regulated by the Instructions and General Recommendations for Organizers of International Congresses of Speleology.

Article 30: Formal support for speleological events

All events which contribute to the technical, scientific or cultural development of speleology, whether of a general, international, national or even regional nature, are of interest to the UIS. The official support of the UIS is thus desirable for all such events, as this should increase their status. This document defines the types of events supported by UIS, the means of applying for UIS support, and the obligations of events that receive UIS support.

CLASSIFICATION OF EVENTS

For the application of these regulations of the UIS, events are classified according to their objectives and may involve various subjects in relation to geographical areas. These are categorized as follows:

Congresses

Congresses involve technical, scientific and/or cultural presentations on various topics. These events must have an organizing committee, maintain a register of participants, and publish the proceedings of the event. They may include practical activities in the field, technical visits, and/or pre- and/or post-congress excursions, although these are not essential.

Congresses may be further subdivided into two sub-categories:

a. National Congresses:

National events involve a single country and are coordinated through an internal national organization. Participation is principally by residents of that country although visitors from other countries can be involved. In larger countries, regional events limited to participants from a certain part of the country may also be organized.

b. International Congresses:

- International Congress of Speleology-ICS: These con-

gresses are regulated in part by their own standards while following the UIS guidelines in Instructions and General Recommendations for Organizers of International Congresses of Speleology.

- Other International Congresses: International events, excluding the International Congress of Speleology, go beyond the boundaries of a single country either in relation to the organization and/or the participation. Although the organization can involve individuals from only one country, the participants must come from more than one. The scope can range from including participants from only two countries up to the whole world. Although any combination of individual countries can organize their own international event, those involving larger regions tend to unite participants from countries with special affinities, whether topical, geographic, linguistic, or cultural.

Symposia

Symposia involve technical, scientific and/or cultural presentations on a single theme. These events must have an organizing committee, maintain a register of participants, and publish the proceedings of the event. They may include practical activities in the field, technical visits, and/or pre- and/or post-symposium excursions, although these are not essential.

Meetings

Meetings involve scientific (e.g. geomorphology, hydrogeology, speleogenesis), technical (e.g. exploration, training, surveying) and/or cultural presentations on various topics. These events must have an organizing committee and maintain a register of participants. They may include practical activities in the field, technical visits, and/or pre- and/or post-meeting excursions, although these are not essential.

International Expeditions

Expeditions involve the organization of technical, cultural, or scientific investigations to collect information and/or samples – produce new data (e.g. maps, photographs). These events must have practical activities in the field and should involve the study and organization of the data collected. Expeditions must have an organizing committee, maintain a register of participants, publish their results, and be organized according to the UIS Code of Ethics. They may involve technical visits, although this is not essential.

Other events

Any other kind of scientific, technical, or cultural event of potentially significant interest may qualify for UIS support if it has an organizing committee that can demonstrate the proposed event's significance to speleology and the goals of the UIS.

Conditions for formal support

For the UIS to provide formal support for an event, the proposal must be of international significance and be within the scope of the regulations of the UIS, while also respecting the regulations and standards of the countries involved.

Formal request for support

Requests for support must be formally submitted on letterhead paper of the event or the organizing entity. It should contain a short description of the event, including the scope, and must be signed by the president of the organizing committee of the event and the relevant delegate(s) of the UIS.

- For events organized by a country which is member of the UIS, the proposal should bear the signature of the delegate of that country.
- For events organized by more than one country, the proposal should bear the signature of the delegate of at least one of the countries involved.

- For international expeditions organized by UIS member countries, the proposal must bear the signature of all of the delegates of the countries involved, including that of the delegate of the destination if it is a member country.

In principle, the UIS does not support events organized by countries which are not members.

Legalization

The request for support should explicitly show that the proposed event obeys the regulations and standards of the countries involved.

Agreement with the Regulations of the UIS

The request for support should explicitly show that the proposed event is in agreement with the statutes, regulations, and ethics of the UIS.

Recipients of requests for support

Requests for support should be addressed directly to the President or Secretary General of the UIS, although they can be sent indirectly through any member of the Bureau.

Obligations

All events which have the formal support of the UIS will automatically assume the following obligations:

The official logo of the UIS should be printed on all material advertising the event, including posters, folders, banners, films, and any other printed matter, in a manner appropriate to the level of sponsorship. The logo may be printed in black and white if printing in the original blue color is not possible.

Promoting the name of the UIS

In news reports or any other kind of publicity of the event, it should be pointed out that the UIS is providing formal support for the event.

Official opening of the event

At the opening session of the event, the UIS should be given an opportunity to speak. This position should be reserved for the UIS President or his official representative. The delegate of the UIS of the country where the opening ceremony is being held should also be given the opportunity to speak.

Publications of the event

In any publications resulting from the event (proceedings, minutes, reports, results, etc.), the formal support of the UIS should be mentioned. In the case of expeditions, there should be space for the comments from the UIS, which would be a text written by a member of the UIS Bureau. These comments would explain the relevance and importance of the expedition.

Registration costs

An official representative of the UIS, and the delegate of the UIS country hosting the event, should be invited to participate in any event supported by the UIS and be exempt from registration fees.

Exhibition stands

At international events formally supported by the UIS, when

stands are installed for exhibits and/or sales, the event organizers should provide exhibit space for use by the UIS. Mounting of a stand for the UIS should be discussed by the organizers of the event with the UIS President and Secretary General, and the delegate of the country promoting the event, with the latter in charge of maintaining someone at the stand of the UIS during the event. This stand can be shared with the national society of the promoting country if desired.

Financial support

For international events formally supported by the UIS, depending on the importance of the event, it is recommended that the organizers of the event facilitate the presence of the official representative of the UIS, furnishing, if possible, transportation, room, and board.

Consideration

If the event has a surplus of funds at its conclusion, the event organizers are asked to consider making a donation to the UIS to support its goals and activities. The donation, if any, and the amount is voluntary; any donation would be appreciated by the UIS and recognized in UIS publicity.

Letter of support

Once a request for UIS support is received, the UIS Bureau will analyze it and respond by either sending a letter of support or furnishing reasons for denying support.

Prior to responding to a request for support, the UIS Bureau Member responsible for answering will consult with the UIS Delegate(s) of the country or countries involved if they did not sign the request for support.

A request for support for a national event will be analyzed and answered directly by the Bureau Member who received it. The Bureau member will forward a copy of the request and response to the UIS President and Secretary General for review before sending the response to the person making the request. If there is disagreement about the response, all Bureau members will receive a copy of all relevant correspondence and a vote will be taken. The Bureau Member who received the request will then respond as directed by the Bureau. If an event is supported, the President of the UIS Informatics Committee will be notified by the Bureau member about the dates of the event so that it can be included on the UIS International Speleo Calendar.

Requests for support for international events should be forwarded directly to the UIS President or Secretary General, who will analyze the request and send an answer. Before writing the answer, they should consult with each other and delegates of the countries involved. If a letter of support is sent, information about the event should be forwarded to the President of the UIS Informatics Commission to be included on the UIS International Speleo Calendar.

Article 31: Modification of Internal Regulations

All modifications to the Internal Regulations will be made by the Bureau, and must be presented at the next General Assembly for the information of the Delegates and their Member Countries.

FINANCE

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

By: Nadja ZUPAN HANA, UIS Treasurer / UIS Adjunct Secretary (Slovenia)

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Prof. Dr. Nadja ZUPAN HANA (Slovenia) in Iran

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 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

Account No.

IBAN SI56 1010 0003 7861 520

SWIFT Code: BAKOSI2X

Bank (name and address)

Banka Koper d.d.
 Traška 2
 6230 Postojna - Slovenia

Accepted Currencies:

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



*Building of the Karst Research Institute in Postojna, Slovenia, where the headquarters of the UIS are.
 In the detail, the bronze plaque with the emblem of the UIS affixed below the name of the institution*

EDITOR'S DISCLOSURE

UIS Bulletin, nor its editors are responsible for:

- misspellings
- wrongly written names
- incorrect articles
- typographical mistakes

Every effort possible has been made to keep all articles as close to the original version.
In some cases, the editors review the structure in order to present the article in a clear and consistent manner and obvious errors are corrected if found.

We appreciate your understanding.

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