

# -BULLETIN

## Union Internationale de Spéléologie

2003

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*Editor-in-Chief: Pavel Bosák*

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### Editorial note

Dear readers of the **UIS-Bulletin**.

As you know, the UIS Bureau organized the research among about 1,800 addresses on which the **UIS-Bulletin** has been distributed. The result was very surprising: most of subscribers wanted to obtain both hard copy and electronic copy. The UIS Bureau carefully evaluated the situation and decided to print only 200 hard copies (instead of 2,200 in the past) for the official use of the UIS Bureau and national delegates, for libraries and documentation centres (where hard copies are traditionally handled). The **UIS-Bulletin** will be available on our web pages: <http://www.uis-speleo.org> and will be distributed also by e-mail as PDF or MS WORD attachment according to obtained database of e-mail addresses during our research or according to personal demands of subscribers.

*What was the reason of this drastic change?*

(1) The costs of print doubled in last years and the cost of post stamps (snail mail) exceeds 3 to 4 times the cost of one volume of the **UIS-Bulletin**, we hope that you understand our position well looking to the problem from the financial point of view.

(2) The internet has been widely spread over the whole World, not excluding the poorest of the developing countries. The national delegates selected by the UIS member countries are responsible for the distribution of the information from the UIS Bureau towards member countries (please see the UIS Statute). National delegates have the best review of recent activities, changes and achievement in the respective country. So it cannot be any substantial problem to distribute the **UIS-Bulletin** according to their own databases, if changes are not provided to the UIS Secretary General. Our last check proved that only several national delegates did not informed us on their e-mail connections.

(3) There appeared substantial changes concerning the **International Journal of Speleology**. The journal is the official scientific medium of the UIS. The UIS Bureau has to ensure the regularity of the print and exclude delays. Therefore financial sources saved by the limitation of the print of the **UIS-Bulletin** will save the **International Journal of Speleology** and ensure its healthy development, regularity and increasing quality.

*Pavel Bosák*  
**UIS-Bulletin** Editor-in-Chief and  
UIS Secretary General

### Registration of the UIS

The UIS was registered according to Slovenian law at District Municipality in Postojna, under No. 211/1146149, on June 20, 2002.

The stable address is: Titov trg 2, 6230 Postojna, Slovenia

The opening of the official seat and plate was held during the International Conference EVOKARST (September 2002) and the Congress of the International Show Cave Association (October 2002) in Postojna, Slovenia.

# SpeleoAthens2005

The 14<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Speleology will be held in Athens, capital of Greece on August 21 to 28, 2005 in Campus of Athens University. No more information available, only incomplete web page:

<http://web.otenet.gr/ellspe>

## Message of the UIS President

In this, the fortieth year of the International Union of Speleology, the Hellenic Speleological Society, together with the Hellenic Federation of Speleology, are organizing the 14th International Congress of Speleology. The event will take place in Athens and will enjoy the support of the Greek Minister of Culture.

The choice of Greece to host the UIS congress is in some ways a tribute to the memory of Madam Anna Petrochilos for her contribution to the development of Greek speleology, whereas Athens was chosen because of the infrastructure available as a result of preparations for the Olympic Games of 2004.

In this unique country where history is paralleled by mythology, caves are an integral link to the past. The majority of these caves house registers of Western history, whether situated under the Acropolis of Athens or scattered throughout the country, including those in the interior of the country, along the coast, and on the islands. Many of these caves have been preserved as archaeological or paleontological sites, while others are exploited for tourism, but most of them have probably not yet been discovered and explored, even by the Greek community of speleologists.

Athens is more than 3000 years old, but it is totally adapted to the comforts of modern times. When walking around the Acropolis we return to the past, but when we ride the modern subways, we have a view of the future. A visit to the Akademia, with its busts of Aristotle, Plato, Pythagoras and so many other Greeks who played such important roles in the history of the world, we find ourselves to be part of the development of the history of the Western world. The mixture of Greek and Latin script on the many signs spread around the city cast a unique visual spell. Greek cuisine, whether seafood, meat, vegetables or fruit, is always rich and spicy, especially certain typical dishes. The many welcoming bars, restaurants and hotels, as well as the fascinating parks and museums and the intriguing possible trips around the region, complete the agenda for the pleasure of the congress participants.

This, the largest and most important event in world speleology, unites scientists, specialists, explorers, students, and enthusiasts from more than 50 countries from all the continents. Speleology will be discussed from various points of view: scientific, technical, cultural, and economic. Papers from all areas of knowledge related to speleology will be welcome and accepted. Space for all kinds of exhibits and demonstrations will be organized and can be required.

The pre- and post-congress programs, as well as the one-day excursions (see event schedule) will provide an opportunity for the congress participants to visit some of the speleological, cultural and scientific heritage sites of this fascinating Mediterranean country. Parallel tourist programs will be arranged those accompanying the participants, and numerous cultural activities are planned to fill the evenings during the week of the congress.

At this great scientific and cultural festival, you will have a chance to exchange ideas and stories with speleologists from around the world, as well as comparing methods and following up on new discoveries. But, above all, you will be part of the international speleological community and help strengthen the ties of international speleological relations, as well as increasing the fraternity among speleologists from the whole world.

The International Union of Speleology, in conjunction with the Organizing Committee of the 14th International Congress of Speleology, is proud to invite all speleologists on the planet to meet in the country which invented the Olympic Games to celebrate together the fortieth birthday of the UIS.

The presence of all who are able to participate will be a great honour for the UIS, and collaborations to increase the success of the event are more than welcome

*José Ayrton Labegalini*

# Reports from UIS Bureau meetings

## Regular Session of the UIS Bureau 2002

The UIS Bureau met in city of Samchok, Republic of Korea on the occasion of the CAVE EXPO 2002 organized by Samchok City Hall. The UIS Bureau met three times, on July 8 and July 9, 2002 in the conference room of the Samchok City Hall.

July 8, 2002, morning: present: J.A. Labegalini, A. Eavis, P. Bosák, F. Nader, A. Mihevc, C. Mouret, L. Song, D.C. Ford, P. Forti, J.M. James, H. Trimmel, guest J.-P. Bartholeyns

July 8, 2002, afternoon: present: J.A. Labegalini, A. Eavis, P. Bosák, F. Nader, A. Mihevc, C. Mouret, L. Song, D.C. Ford, P. Forti, J.M. James, H. Trimmel, guest J.-P. Bartholeyns

July 9, 2002, morning: present: J.A. Labegalini, A. Eavis, A. Klimchouk, P. Bosák, F. Nader, A. Mihevc, C. Mouret, L. Song, A.A. Cigna, D.C. Ford, P. Forti, J.M. James, H. Trimmel, guest K.S. Woo

The session approved the agenda and controlled and approved the minutes from previous sessions in La Chaux-de-Fonds in 2001.

*Information on financial state of the art* – taken into account without comments. Relatively rich and prolonged discussion continued on other financial issues. The cost of the stable address is nearly nothing, only operational costs (mail). Further discussion concerned the financial support to the UIS Commissions/WG. Most of the UIS Bureau members agreed that money can be allocated only on the basis of the project/proposal of budget (enables the control of money expenditures) like the application for a grant, i.e. particular money to particular budget/project with the support of well-defined output (e.g., publication).

The problems of the *UIS Bulletin* were carefully commented: there is need to substantially reduced the number of hard copies (presently 2,200 hard printed copies); the UIS Bulletins have to be inserted on UIS Web Pages; distribution to be arranged through national delegates; since 2003, there is expected to reduce hard copy print and distribution

The UIS Bureau approved and took into account the *registration of the UIS* under the Slovenian law.

*List of Honours*. After prolonged discussion was decided to continue in consultation and to prepare guidelines.

Translations of the UIS Constitution/Statute. Preliminary translations to Italian and German are available. Text has to be sent to lawyers as the translation must be identical with the French original. The corrected text will be distributed by e-mail for discussion

*UIS Regulations for Organizers* – the completed and corrected text will be transformed to French.

*UIS Internal Regulations/Reglement Interieur – Affiliation*. The material which is very old has to be modified to reflect the changes of the UIS Statute from 1997. Regulations has to contain principal items, especially: number of adjunct secretaries, annual fees of member countries, incl. cancellation of membership, statute of affiliated members and their fees, list of official UIS documents, documents to be presented during the Assemblies General of the UIS, right and duties of the UIS Bureau Members, statutes of Commissions and Working Groups, i.e. ad hoc, permanent. The problem of affiliated membership looks as follows, we can distinguished 3 types or organizations: 1. not reaching agreement within the member country, 2. non-profit research organizations, 3. profit institutions and organizations (e.g., show caves). We have to prevent the case No. 1; the affiliation of institutions No. 2 should be excellent; affiliation of type No. 3 – institutions should be useful. Affiliated membership represents some kind of profit for the UIS. Here must be the control during Congresses or more frequently if affiliated members behave correctly according to principles; if not the UIS will withdraw them on the next UIS Bureau Session

*UIS Internal Regulations/Reglement Interieur – Number of Adjunct Secretaries*. There are possibilities: the number can be stable now or the number can be stated according to actual needs or there should be representatives of regions. The number should be proposed by the UIS Bureau and approved by the Assembly General. The statements were followed by broad discussion on the evolution of the number of Adjunct Secretaries in the past, if to maintain 8 persons or on ratio of regional representatives.

*UIS Internal Regulations/Reglement Interieur – Rights and duties of the UIS officials – national delegates*. Broad discussion took part with results: the only duty, except the distribution of information from the UIS Bureau to the member country, is to ensure annual fee payment and the corresponding right is to vote on Assemblies General if the respective member country covered the duties.

*UIS Internal Regulations/Reglement Interieur –Rights and duties of the UIS officials – substitution of the UIS Bureau Member*. There are existing several possibilities: 1. by candidate to the UIS Bureau, who was not elected and obtained the highest number of votes; 2. by candidate to the UIS Bureau, who was not elected but represents the respective continent/ region, or 3. by invited personality. The UIS Bureau utilised the precedent form the past: after the death of Mr. T. Kiknadze (former USSR), he was substituted by A. Klimchouk invited as UIS Bureau collaborator, which seemed to be the best solution for our problem – the death of Mr. G. Huppert (USA). According to the proposal of the National Speleological Society BOG (J. Moses responsible for international affairs) it was to decide to invite Dr. George Veni USA) to collaborate with the UIS Bureau instead of the late G. Huppert. Proposal was accepted.

*Commissions/Working Groups.* The introduction with the review of the state of the art was presented. It was proposed to prolong all Commission/WG activity until 2005 and to wait for reports and after to establish Standing Commissions (Rescue, Bibliography) and Scientific Commissions (but not permanent; with already approved exceptions, e.g., Speleotherapy).

*International Journal of Speleology.* IJS Vols. 29+30 (2000+2001) Physical Speleology are published, Vol. 31 (2002) is expected during September-October 2002. Italian editors solved number of problems, the situation is much better now. Biospeleology will merge with some journal in France or Germany and we will terminate its publication. For volume 32 we expect the support of the UIS in total height of approx. 500 USD. Regular support was agreed.

*UIS database* – will be compiled (list of national delegates, list of national karst/caving bodies, list of publications, lists of Presidents of federations)

*UIS history.* In 2005 the 40. Anniversary of the UIS will be celebrated. The review about the history to be published, divided for a period before 1965 and after. The material (brochure and/or CD) should include: e.g., UIS Presidents, principal documents, Statute/Constitution history, publications, summaries of all Congresses of Speleology, complete lists of Bureaus, Commissions/WG) and the celebration should be prepared for 2005 SpeleoAthens in Greece.

*UIS Web Pages* were updated.

*UIS principal documents* should be presented in all UIS official languages (French, English, Spanish, Italian, German, and Russian) and eventually in other languages (rough Slovenian version of the Statute was prepared for the UIS registration).

*The International Day of Speleology* – the September 16 – the date of the foundation of the UIS was proposed. the legal procedure within the UNESCO should be supported by national delegates to UNESCO – the task for UIS national delegates to contact respective persons.

*UIS Prizes.* The activity should be prolonged, but all the procedure should be better organized during SpeleoAthens 2005 – poster prize, book prize, and exploration prize.

*International co-operation.* Agreement with the IGU has been still valid– there are joint publications. Karst IGU Commission will be most probably reconfirmed during the next IGU Congress. The report on collaboration of the UIS and IGU karst commissions should be prepared in mutual co-operation and with signatures of responsible persons of both parties (i.e. John Gunn and Aleksander Klimchouk). The preparation of Agreement between the ISCA (International Show Caves Association) and the UIS should be prepared for October 2002.

*Varia.* Mr. Nader gave information on role and position of Africa within the UIS. In Tunisia a motivated group with the link to government appeared. The situation in Morocco, Algeria and Ethiopia has been under investigation. The report on Middle East Speleology 2001 Conference was given. Great development of speleology can be expected in Africa and Arabian regions. Some contacts have been even opened. There was the information on preparation of the UIS Expedition before the next UIS Bureau Session not only to know karst and caves, but to meet people. To visit close countries, to meet people, to recommend touristical utilization, sources, etc.

*Next meeting* – Greece, Athens, October 2003, 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Cave Palaeontology and Archaeology.

*Approved motions.* International Day of Speleology to be celebrated on September 16, the day of foundation of the UIS (September 16, 1965).

### **Regular Session of the UIS Bureau 2003**

The UIS Bureau met in city of Athens, Greece on the occasion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Cave Palaeontology and Archaeology organized by Hellenic Speleological Society. The UIS Bureau met twice, on October 16, 2003 in one of the lecture rooms of the Athens University.

October 16, 2003, morning, present: J.A. Labegalini, A. Eavis, P. Bosák, R. Hapka, A. Mihevc, C. Mouret, L. Song, H. Trimmel, G. Veni, guests: U. Widmer, J.P. Batholeyns.

October 16, 2003, afternoon, present: J.A. Labegalini, A. Eavis, P. Bosák, R. Hapka, A. Mihevc, C. Mouret, L. Song, H. Trimmel, G. Veni, guests: U. Widmer, J.P. Batholeyns.

*Approval of Agenda 2003.* Agenda was completed and approved.

*Finances – review.* information was taken into account.

*Greece 2005.* UIS Bureau was informed on the state of the art, especially changes and achievements since October 2002 (Mr. Eavis and Bosák). Poor co-ordination of Greek activities with the UIS was stated. The appeared the proposal to cancel Greece as organizer of the International Congress of Speleology (ICS) in 2005.

*Control of Minutes from Regular Session in 2002 (Samchok, Korea).* Mr. Mihevc informed on opening of the UIS stable address in Postojna, Slovenia and on opening ceremony with erection of UIS table on building of Institute of Karst Research in Postojna. It was proposed to cancel the discussion on List of Honours. There exists now new translations to English and Spanish, all the versions have to be corrected by local lawyer. The content of new Re-

glement Interieur must be evaluated carefully. UIS history – the daughter of late prof. Gèze will be contacted. UIS materials can be stored in Postojna. WWW pages were updated on October 2003. International Day of Speleology – we shall continue with UNESCO headquarters in Paris via Greek ambassador at UNESCO. The FEALC member countries, which are not member countries of the UIS should become regular UIS member countries.

UIS Principal documents (UIS Constitution/Statute – translations; Internal Regulations/Reglement Interieur; Corrections to UIS Ethic Code; Standards for Extra Assembly; General Recommendations for Organizers of Events). The prolonged discussion was dealing the not optimistic state of the preparation of the 14<sup>th</sup> ICS in Athens, Greece, 2005. Following items were discussed in detail: to establish Feasibility Committee for every ICS; when representative of country organizing next ICS is not elected to the UIS Bureau, he/her will be co-opted to Bureau under conditions of specified within the Reglement Interieur; the right to organize the ICS; too much event in close time; important events we should have link to our WWW or to announce our WWW in principal events organized by other bodies; the proposal for next Congress, why 6 months before the Assembly General and not 1 year?, and to assume that Bureau can expel the proposal = to establish group and compile rules = Commission is composed of Mr. Eavis, Hapka, Mouret and Widmer. It prepares the questionnaire for pre-selection and filtration of the ICS site. Bureau after decides on Pre-selection Commission.

*Commissions and Working Groups.* Mr. Mouret asked Commission by e-mail and obtained only several answers. It was stated that there have to be regulations, clearly stating that inactivity means automatic end of Commission or WG, which has to be included in Reglement Interieur. Presentation of Commissions and WG on the Congress (not within Assembly General) must be renewed.

*UIS Prints.* It was proposed to organize cooperation in the UIS Bulletin print and distribution with Spanish Speleological Federation. Accepted solution: to wait for Spanish proposal.

*Web pages and related items.* Mr. Klimchouk asked to arrange the DOI. The voting on that problem will be organized electronically due to the limited number of Bureau members.

*International co-operation.* On October 2002, during the Congress of the International Association of Show Caves, the Memorandum and Agreement with the UIS were signed. Mr. President explained the history, achievements, problems and proposed to wait for 2005 Bermuda ISCA General Assembly, but not to allow disconnection in relations.

*Varia.* Information of Fadi Nader on expected future UIS member countries. Request to help in protection of karst in Guatemala needs request of more data from French cavers and to ask some conservationist for consultation. Mr. Veni presented the primary information on idea of Speleo2009 in the USA.

*Next meeting* – Vietnam, Hanoi, September 2004, International Multidisciplinary Conference TRANS-KARST 2004.

## **Proposal by Roman Hapka and Urs Widmer, Athens 16.10.2003**

### *Preamble*

What is the primary function of the UIS? Having good and efficient International Congresses.

### *Proposal for the UIS Bureau*

1. Committee for UIS Congresses: Comprised of elected UIS Bureau members. Work: identify and assess feasibility of future countries.
2. Country proposal must be submitted at least 1 year prior to the General Assembly.
3. International Congress to be held every three years.
4. The International Congress can only be organized by countries in the member category A.
5. The organizing country has automatically a "Secrétaire Adjoint" in the UIS Bureau.

## **National Delegates and Substitutes, UIS Bureau members Changes**

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# Web pages of karst/caving bodies

**Project Speleork – Ružomberok Caving Club, Slovakia**  
www.speleork.sk

**Balkan Speleological Union**  
<http://www.balkan-speleo.org>

## From Member Countries and Regions

### **The Cave BB-30: -610 m – new Bulgarian depth record in Albania**

From 10 till 28 August 2003 six members of Caving Club “Studenetz”, Pleven, Bulgaria held expedition in the Bridash Massif of Albanian Alps, North Albania. The expedition was led by Orlin Kolov and in it take part also the young cavers K. Nantzev, I. Ivanov, M. Ivanov, K. Petrov, and V. Yakimov. The aim of the expedition was to continue the exploration of the BB-30 Cave located at 1940 m a.s.l. and discovered during the second Bulgarian caving expedition in Albania in 1992. In 1994 and 1996 the cavers from “Studenetz” made attempts to explore the cave to the end but finally they reach approximately 500 m of depth. The bad political conditions in Albania stopped the carrying out of Bulgarian caving expeditions there till 2002 when starts the new era of our exploration in the country.

The start point to the cave is Boga villagge located at 900 m a.s.l. It takes 5 hours for transportation of the luggage to 1700 m a.s.l. where the base camp was organized. The distance from the camp to the cave entrance is 1.30 hours of walking. In the next day the expedition rent mules (25 \$ each) and transport additional equipment and food to the base camp. The penetration of the cave starts in 14 August. Down to the depth of 200 m the relief of the cave permits rigging with stitched or anchor slings. After the pit was anchored with “Spits”. Meanwhile in the depth of 150 m small stream appears. In the depth of 250 m was reached the deepest pit of the cave -170 m. After the cave continued with series of pits 15-20 m deep. In - 610 m the cave ended with boulder choke and not penetrable fissure with little lake in the bottom.

The BB-30 is the deepest cave discovered and explored by Bulgarian cavers. The second deepest cave explored by Bulgarians is S-2 (-568 m) in Tennengebirge Mts. (Austria). With its depth of 610 m BB-30 became the deepest cave of Albania.

*Alexey Jalov*

### **Africa**

In the periodical „Berliner höhlenkundliche Berichte“ (BHB) the Speläoclub Berlin has recently released an actual overview about caves and karst of Africa – a continent that has up till now not received the same attention than other areas of the world with respect to karstology. Each country is presented in detail including 3 maps (topography, geology and karst occurrences) as well as a description of the geological settings, the history of speleological exploration, a detailed list of the longest and deepest caves (incl. surveys), a list of useful addresses and an in-depth bibliography. All volumes are in English, German and French abstract are included (see New Books on p. 13).

*Michael Laumanns*

### **Balkan Speleological Union**

*1<sup>st</sup> Balkan Speleological Meeting of Balkan Speleological Union, Othris, Greece 2003*  
*Organized by Federation Hellenique de Speleologie*

We would like to inform on the results of work of Federation Hellenique de Speleologie (FHS), realised from 11 until 20 September 2003 in Othris Mts. of Magnisia Prefecture. During 10 days of work, 96 speleologists from which 7 Bulgarians took part on the event, including the Chairman and the G. Secretary of Balkan Speleological Union, Prof. Petar Beron and Alexey Jalov. Speleologist that participated they were entertained in the camps of Holy Metropolis of Kozani, in the area called Pigadi of Pteleos. The secretariat and the departure point of caving teams were the ground floor of Pteleos Town Hall. There were organized 48 teams with total time of work 300 man days. For the transportation of the cavers to the caverns were used 15 private vehicles which covered in total 5,000 km. Beside the participants, 20 local villagers assist in the effort in various ways. We visited 19 potholes, 4 water collectors, 15 caves and 1 underground river. Out of these 40, five (5) have archaeological or wider scientific interest, while from 7 caverns have been collected fauna organisms of important speleological interest. The deepest cave (Titanospilia) was 65 meters depth and the longest (Tetrastomo) was 1km long. In “Tetrastomo” cave 600 m of new galleries were explored. Cumulative survey length (by all 40 caves) was 989m and cumulative depth, 490 m. On the other hand we have collected information on other 30 entry (new objects). The volume of this work consisted of 40 files, which contain notes, sketches, reports with all the elements of primary form on the each cavern. Also we have enough work finished with regular reports and mappings. In all the files exist also the proportional photographic material and transparencies while in certain other exists photographic material in electronic form (CD - ROM, diskettes). This entire work categorized is in the disposal of BSU and FHS. For the finalization of the ana-

lytical report, some time interval will be required.

It could be underlined that the cooperation between the Greek and Bulgarian cavers was at high levels. Especially during the Cave rescue exercise which took place the last day of the expedition both sides exchange experiences and techniques. FHS believe that BSU will reinforce speleological investigation though out the Balkan Peninsula and will play a key role in the representation of the Balkan cavers to the rest of the world.

*Kostas Adamopoulos*  
Gen. Secretary of the FHS

## Romania



The Apuseni experience offers the visits of caves. Their list is below. Some of the caves are caving reservations and access to them is therefore restricted to a certain number of cavers/year. To find out whether your group could visit these caves at a particular time, please contact us in advance. Also please take into consideration when planning a trip that you want to include caves considered reservations that we need at least 1 month to obtain the visiting agreement from their legal keepers.

DD = the degree of difficulty

### SUNCUIUS – VADU CRISULUI AREA

	Name of cavity	Characteristics	Time of visit	DD
1.	Ungurului Cave	historical and anthropologic importance, Neolithic ceramics, bronze pieces - electricity, tourist fittings; guided tour; entrance fee	20 minutes; group: 15 persons	I
2.	Vantului Cave	the longest cave in Romania – 45 km; 4 levels, great diversity of speleothems, gypsum forms, parietal flowstone; - closed cave (reservation) - overalls, boots, light source needed	8 – 20 hours group: 5 – 10 pers.	II
3.	Moanei Cave	L=1,170 m; underground river, waterfalls, meanders, speleothems - free access; - waterproof overall, boots, light source needed	4 hours group: 5 – 7 pers.	II
4.	Ponoras Cave	L=3,851 m; D=186 m; a great diversity of speleothems, rimstone pools, waterfalls; narrow entrance; sportive cave - closed cave; - overall, boots, light sources, complete abseiling equipment	8 hours group: 5 – 7 pers.	III
5.	Vadu-Crisului Cave	L= 1,000 m; tourist cave, partially destroyed speleothems, 2 levels, underground river, breakdowns, thick soot deposits; - arranged cave (footbridges, ladders); guided tours; entrance fee - light source, sometimes overall and boots	40 – 60 min. group: 5 – 15 pers.	I
6.	Batranului Cave	L= 1,100 m; D=68 m; underground river, 10m pit at the entrance, 2 narrow paths, speleothems, waterfalls, 2 siphons, relatively large rooms, clay figures museum - free access; - overall, boots, light source, harness and belay	4 hours group: 5 – 10 pers.	II

## ROSIA AREA

1.	Ciur Ponor Cave	L= 15,000m the longest subterranean river in Romania: 10 km; imposing chambers, waterfalls, lakes, siphons, easy passages; 2 waterfalls: 5 to 14 m; - waterproof overall, boots, light sources, complete SRT equipment for waterfalls; - neoprene for passing through the siphon;	5 - 10 hours; group: 5 - 10 pers;	III
2.	Ciur Iz buc Cave	L= 1,030 m; 2 levels: active and dry; palaeontologic relics: footprints of prehistoric man and <i>Ursus spaeleus</i> ; rimstone pools, aragonites - closed cave (reservation) - is not difficult to cross - overall, boots, light source;	3 - 6 hours; group: 5 – 10 pers;	II
3.	Aven of Sohodol I	D= -102m; - sportive cave; - alternation of large pits and easy passages; - few speleothems; - overall, boots, light source, complete SRT equipment; - good physical and psychological shape; - problems can appear in case of flood over the 3 last pits;	5 – 7 hours; group: 5 pers.	III
4.	Stanu Foncii aven	D= -339 m; sportive cave; succession of pits and passages; - overall, boots, light source, complete SRT equipment; - good physical and psychological shape;	5 – 12 hours group: 5 pers.	III
5.	Meziad Cave	L= 4,750 m; 3 levels, of which one is under water - large galleries, impressive entrance; palaeontologic relics - <i>Ursus spelaeus</i> ; variety of speleothems; large bat colonies; - closed cave; only guided access; - overall, boots, light source; - no technical difficulties;	3 – 8 hours; group: 5 – 20 pers.	II

## PADIS AREA

1.	The Black Cave (Pestera Neagra)	D = -178 m; L= 10,000 m; succession of pits, few formations, subterranean river, sportive cave; - high flood danger; - overall, boots, light source, full SRT equipment;	8 – 10 hours group: 5 pers.	III
2.	The Karstic System "The Lost World"	L= 2,437 m; D= 140 m; subterranean active network; access through 2 impressive avens: Black Aven: -100 m and Gemanata Aven: -98 m; sportive cave, calcite deposits, lakes; - difficulties in case of high flood; - waterproof overall, boots, light source, full SRT equipment; - good physical and technical skills;	6 – 8 hours; group: 3 – 7 pers.	III
3.	Ghetarul Focul Viu	L= 165 m; 25.000 m <sup>3</sup> ice block; lower level; specific ice formations; - not difficult; - light source, adequate footwear; - for the lower level: overall, full SRT equipment;	20 min; group: 5 – 20 pers.	I
4.	Cetatile Ponorului	L= 7,500 m; impressive entrance;	4 - 8 hours; group: 3 – 7 pers.	

		subterranean river, succession of 14 lakes; impressively decorated, waterfalls; - neoprene suit, good physical and technical skills; - swimming skills; - problems if water level increases; small visiting groups;		IV
5.	The Ice Cave of Barsa	D= -112 m; permanent ice at the entrance, moonmilk flows, erosion and corrosion forms; succession of pits, waterfalls and siphons; sportive cave; - overall, boots, light sources, full SRT equipment; - problems can appear on lower level if high floods are caused;	5 – 7 hours; group: 3 – 7 pers.	III
6.	Caput Cave	L= 1,873 m; sportive cave; absolutely no formations; in rainy periods a subterranean river is formed; 2 (vertical) shafts: 10 and 30 m; - high flood danger; - overall, boots, full SRT equipment; ; - access in small groups; - the horizontal part of the cave is not to be visited in rainy periods;	2 – 4 hours; group: 3 – 5 pers.	III
7.	Piatra Altarului Cave	L= 3,000 m - closed cave (reservation); - overall; boots, light sources; overall and footwear to replace;	5 – 10 hours group: 5 – 10 pers.	II
8.	Avenul Poienita	L= 7,500 m ; d= -280 m; sportive cave - waterproof overall, boots, light sources, full SRT equipment; - good physical and psychological state;	8 – 20 hours; group: 3 – 5 pers.	IV
9.	Pestera Humpleu	L= 35,000m; 2 levels: dry and active; impressive decorations; great variety of speleothems; breakdowns; on the subterranean river: lakes, slopes, waterfalls, moonmilk waterfall; siphons; - closed cave (reservation) - for the dry part: overall, boots, light source; - for the active part: full neoprene, overall, light source;		dry: II  active: IV
10.	Pestera Rece (The Cold Cave)	L= 2,000 m; - closed cave (reservation); - overall, boots, light sources, full SRT equipment;	5 – 8 hours; group: 5 – 10 pers.	III

#### CHISCAU - SIGHISTEL AREA

1.	Micula Cave	L=7,316 m; D= +165 m; impressively decorated, subterranean river, a variety of speleothems, subterranean lakes, waterfalls, siphons; - closed cave (natural reservation) - up to the siphon: harness, lanyard, overall and light source - from the siphon: complete neoprene suit, light sources, complete SRT equipment.	5 – 20 hours; group: 5 – 10 pers.	III
2.	Petit Tibi Aven	L= 241 m; depth = -159.75 m; successive shafts and passages 80 m shaft sportive cave - reservation - overall, boots, light source, complete SRT	10 – 12 hours; group: 3 – 5 pers.	III

		equipment - good physical shape and technical skills		
3.	Pestera Ursilor (The Bears' Cave)	L = 1,500 m; great variety of speleothems, palaeontologic relics - <i>Ursus spelaeus</i> , rimstone pools, parietal flows, drapes; - guided access only - arranged tourist cave - electricity - does not require equipment	30 – 50 min; group: 5 – 20 pers	I
4.	Corbasca Cave	L = 300 m richly decorated, moonmilk flows, speleothems: stalactites, stalagmites, columns; - not difficult - overall, boots, light source	40 min; group: 10 pers;	II
5.	Magura Cave	L = 1,500 m; great variety of speleothems, large chambers, palaeontologic relics, richly decorated; - not difficult - overall, boots, light source	3 – 5 hours; group: 5 – 15 pers.	II
6.	Coliboaia Cave	L = 1,060 m; subterranean river, temporary lake, stalagmitical flows, calcite deposits, chambers, meanders. - no technical difficulties, - overall, boots, light source	2 hours; group: 5 – 10 pers;	II

#### GARDA AREA

1.	Hoanca Urzicarilor Aven	D= -286 m; sportive cave, succession of pits; - overall, light source, complete SRT equipment; - good physical shape and technical skills; - beware of unstable breakdown cones;	10 – 12 hours; group: 3 – 5 pers;	IV
2.	Ghetarul de sub Zgu- rasti	L= 5,210 m; impressive entrance; great variety of speleo- thems; subterranean river and 2 lakes; vertical portions, lots of clay; - overall, boots, light source, complete SRT equipment; - closed cave (reservation) - a boat is necessary to cross the lakes; - access can be restricted in rainy periods (a temporary lake at the entrance is formed);	5 – 12 hours; group: 5 – 7 pers.	III
3.	Scarisoara Ice Cave	L= 800 m; impressively decorated; ice deposit of 75,000 m <sup>3</sup> ; ice formations, biospeleologic reservation; - closed cave; guided access only; - paths are set up, electricity; - best visiting time: April-June; - no special equipment is required;	40 min. group: 5 – 20 pers;	I
4.	The Aven of Sesuri	L= 2,500m; D= -217m; successions of pits and shafts; calcite flowstone, speleothems, impressive decorations, sportive cave, subterranean river, lakes; - overall, light sources, boots, complete SRT equipment; - good physical shape and technical skills;	7 – 8 hours; group: 5 – 7 pers.	III
5.	Coiba Mica Cave	L= 270 m; subterranean river, lakes, waterfalls; sportive cave; - careful at logs to fall; - neoprene, overall, full SRT equipment; - chances of high flood;	1 – 2 hours; 5 pers;	III
6.	Coiba Mare Cave	L= 4,500 m; subterranean river with waterfalls and lakes;	6 – 8 hours; 5 pers;	

		formations; sportive cave; - neoprene, full SRT equipment; - to avoid visits in rainy periods;		III
7.	Vartop Ice Cave	L= 300 m; moonmilk flows, stalagmitic flows; cave renowned for the footprint of the "Vartop man"; great variety of speleothems; - closed cave (reservation); - guided access only; - overall, boots, light source; - not difficult;	30 min – 1 h; group: 5 – 10 pers;	II
8.	Oilor Cave (Cave of the Sheep)	L= 545 m; subterranean lakes; rimstone pools, speleothems; does not include vertical passages; - overall, boots, light sources; - not difficult, except for the final lake, where a boat is needed;	3 – 5 hours; group: 5 – 7 pers;	II
9.	Hoanca Apei Cave	L= 1,839 m; subterranean river with lakes, 20 m waterfall; intermittent spring (30 seconds); palaeontologic relics ( <i>Ursus spelaeus</i> ); great variety of speleothems; - closed cave (reservation) - overall, boots, light sources, full SRT equipment;	5 – 8 hours; 5 – 7 pers;	II
10.	Sohodol II Aven	D= -193 m; - lots of verticals; large pits; few speleothems; - overall, boots, light sources, full SRT equipment; - good physical shape and technical skills;	8 – 12 hours; group: 5 – 7 pers;	III

## New Books

### Howard Beck: **Beneath the Cloud Forests**

Hardbound; 352 pages; 17x25cm; SpeleProjects of Switzerland; ISBN 3-908495-11-3; English with 31 maps, numerous 103 B&W photos and 64 pages of colour.

Book detailing the complete history of cave discovery and exploration in Papua New Guinea. The narrative documents over 30 international expeditions over a period from the mid-1950s up to the current time, culminating in the recent discovery, by French speleologists, of the 1,178 metres deep Muruk Hul, now the deepest system in the Southern Hemisphere, and certainly one of the most beautiful caves in the world. There are two chapters devoted to our NG75 trip. Order: via the internet from Speleobooks in the US. Their website is [www.speleobooks.com](http://www.speleobooks.com) and e-mail address: [speleobooks@speleobooks.com](mailto:speleobooks@speleobooks.com).

### Ivo Lučić (Zagreb), Boris Sket (Ljubljana), Ana Opalić (Dubrovnik) and others: **"Vjetrenica – a glimpse into the soul of the Earth"**

semi-hard; 324 pages; 23x28 cm;

Ivo Lučić – private edition and Artresor naklada and Denona printers; Croatian with English summary and contents; 200 photographs, 65 illustrations, 15 maps and 10 charts; in colour; Appendix: topographic map of Vjetrenica 1:2000; Price: 50 euros plus postage

The popular scientific monograph describes the Dinaric Karst in whose centre there is one of the most interesting Karst phenomena, the Vjetrenica cave, which together with the surrounding area is one of the world's richest habitats of underground endemic fauna. There are descriptions of all classifications of animals (higher and lower) in Vjetrenica, the history of the research of the cave is given, with original or translated texts on Vjetrenica from Pliny the Elder to Karel Absolon (77 AD to 1912) and a biography of 39 researchers and a glossary of Karst terminology. Orders: [ivo.lucic@zg.htnet.hr](mailto:ivo.lucic@zg.htnet.hr), [artresor@zg.tel.hr](mailto:artresor@zg.tel.hr).

### **Berliner höhlenkundliche Berichte (BHB)**

Vol. 7: Introduction & Algeria to Djibouti (102 pages).

Vol. 8: Egypt to Morocco (139 pages).

Vol. 9: Mozambique to Zimbabwe & General References (148 pages).

In the periodical „Berliner höhlenkundliche Berichte“ (BHB) the Speläoclub Berlin has recently released an actual overview about caves and karst of Africa – a continent that has up till now not received the same attention than

other areas of the world with respect to karstology. Each country is presented in detail including 3 maps (topography, geology and karst occurrences) as well as a description of the geological settings, the history of speleological exploration, a detailed list of the longest and deepest caves (incl. surveys), a list of useful addresses and an in-depth bibliography. All volumes are in English, German and French abstract are included in vol. 7. Orders and details under [www.speleo-berlin.de](http://www.speleo-berlin.de).

## Chronicle

### **Sami Karkabi – a caver from Lebanon**

Sometimes, words are used to praise people for their deeds, but they can never express their dreams. For a caver, no words in whatever language can fully convey the feelings during the discovery of new premises underground. What if the discovery was Gouffre Berger in 1956 (the deepest cave of the world at that time) or Jiita in the 1950s (9 km, longest cave in Lebanon) and Fouar Dara (-622 m, the deepest cave of Lebanon) in the 1960s. One man has experienced all this and even more – the list of achievements is too long to be inserted. This is Sami Karkabi, a Lebanese caver who has made already 50 years of caving by the year 2001, matching with the age of the Speleo-Club du Liban. Therefore, it is not inappropriate to call him the father of that association and the Lebanese speleology. In fact, if others like Albert Anavy and Lionel Gorra dreamed of an organized caving society in Lebanon. And if they were the founders of the Speleo-Club du Liban. Sami Karkabi is not less credited for putting the dream into reality through his 50 years (and still) of caving and supporting the Lebanese speleology.

Sami is not just a caver, he is a passionate of the underground. He is a great caver, photographer, archivist, topographer,... And if you would discuss with him anything related to the geology, hydrogeology, biospeleology, archeology and all aspects of culture, you might be surprised to get overwhelming information in an academic manner of preaching, and always with a smile and proud eyes. He played a major role in developing international friendships under the name of speleology and linking Lebanon to the heart of Europe in a time when traveling was not a 'piece of cake'. Sami Karkabi knew how to organize the speleological society in Lebanon by diverted SCL into the scientific realm as well as the public benefit domain. Then the events queued, from the Cedars Medal ('Ordre du Cedre') granted by the president of the Lebanese Republic in person in 1959 for the efforts of SCL cavers to turn Jiita into a show-cave, to the elevation of SCL to the status of a public utility organization. He was appointed by the Lebanese government as director of the Jiita show-cave, a place where he likes the most. He maintained the contact with the International Union of Speleology even during the harsh times of the Lebanese strife. Due to his non-stopping efforts, Lebanon was omnipresent on all congresses of the UIS.

On this special occasion of passing 50 years of caving, we as Lebanese cavers find ourselves indebted to this man. Indeed indebted we are for his passion that gave birth to our passion. We would like to acknowledge our grand esteem to Sami Karkabi. He gives us the good example and we are proud to have someone like him as a father of our family of speleologists.

*Fadi Nader*  
Union International de Speleologie  
Adjoint Secretary

## Events

### **The 30<sup>th</sup> Congress of The International Geographical Union**

IGC-UK Glasgow, 15-20 August 2004

[igc2004@meetingmakers.ac.uk](mailto:igc2004@meetingmakers.ac.uk) or Lorraine Craig at the RGS-IBG in London, the conference co-ordinator  
[l.craig@rgs.org](mailto:l.craig@rgs.org)

The main Congress theme - *One Earth, Many Worlds* - has allowed an exciting and wonderfully diverse academic programme to be developed. Particular sections of the academic programme are dedicated to sessions organised by the IGU Commissions. The Congress will incorporate associated meetings - the 2004 Annual International Conference of the Royal Geographical Society (with The Institute of British Geographers), a Joint International Geomorphology Conference on Geomorphology and Sustainability, as well as meetings of the International Cartographic Association and British Cartographic Society, and the Association of Geographic Information. A choice of academic excursions - throughout Scotland, to Iceland, or to Ireland - is available, pre-, during and post-Congress, offering the opportunity to extend academic discussion. An International Schools' Poster Competition is involving pupils from over twenty-six countries with more entries yet to come. And a varied programme of one-day academic excursions and social trips, together with drinks receptions and a social programme, has added yet further variety - and a chance to unwind! - to the Congress. To be held in an exciting city famous for its architecture, its people and their warmth of welcome, the 30<sup>th</sup> Congress is a unique opportunity and offers great value for money. So, with all that's going on in this, come to Glasgow in August 2004 to help celebrate, participate in and disseminate the importance of geography to the understanding of *One Earth, Many Worlds*.

*Lorraine Craig*

### **Journées 2003 de l'AFK / AFK 2003 Workshop**

Normandie – Normandy, Mardi 9 septembre - Vendredi 12 septembre, 2003

<http://www.univ-rouen.fr/M2C/karst2003/>

La Haute Normandie fait figure d'exception en ce qui concerne l'importance de son karst dans les formations crayeuses du Crétacé supérieur, en concentrant un nombre de phénomènes et un développement des cavités pénétrables largement supérieurs à toutes les autres régions crayeuses du grand Bassin Anglo-Parisien.

L'UMR 6143 du CNRS et le Laboratoire de Géologie de l'Université de Rouen, associés au Centre Normand d'Etude du Karst, organisent les Journées 2003 de l'AFK. Celles-ci se tiendront à la Maison de l'Université de Rouen, sur le campus de Mont Saint Aignan, du 10 au 12 septembre prochains.

Ces Journées Internationales et Interdisciplinaires sont parrainées par l'International Association of Hydrogeology, l'Association des Sédimentologues Français et la Fédération française de Spéléologie, avec le soutien de l'Agence de l'Eau Seine-Normandie, du BRGM-Rouen, du Conseil Régional de Haute Normandie et le Conseil Général de la Seine Maritime.

Excursion sur le littoral du Pays de Caux, *remplissages et trait de côte*

Excursion dans la Vallée de Seine, *hydrogéologie et paléokarsts*

Appel à Communications: Les communications scientifiques seront les bienvenues, essentiellement sous forme de posters. Les langues de la réunion sont le Français et l'Anglais. Communications orales et posters porteront préférentiellement, mais non exclusivement, sur les quatre thèmes proposés :

- *genèse du karst*, mise en place et évolution,
- *hydrogéologie du karst*, dynamique, insolubles, hydrobiochimie,
- *remplissages karstiques*, sédimentologie, altération, datations,
- *karst et littoralité*, adaptations, conséquences sur la ressource.

Les résumés des posters et des communications seront publiés dans un recueil, avec le livret-guide des excursions. En conséquence, les résumés, bilingues, devront nous parvenir avant le 15 mai. La longueur du résumé est limitée à une page au format A4. La police sera préférentiellement Times New Roman-12 ou 10.

Les tarifs ne sont pas encore fixés car nous attendons les réponses de plusieurs financeurs institutionnels. Ils seront cependant les plus faibles possibles, afin de favoriser la participation des collègues et étudiants de pays éloignés. En ce sens, nous recherchons des solutions de logement et de restauration les plus raisonnables possible.

Afin de définir ces coûts, notamment pour les déplacements en autocar, nous souhaitons savoir au plus tôt les intentions de participation. S'il vous plait, faites-nous savoir votre intention, sans engagement, par e-mail, à l'adresse suivante: [Congress.rouen@univ-rouen.fr](mailto:Congress.rouen@univ-rouen.fr).

D'avance, nous vous en remercions. En espérant pouvoir vous compter parmi les participants et échanger fructueusement, en septembre prochain.

*Joël Rodet*

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All payments for the UIS should be directed to (bank transfer by the SWIFT is preferred):

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### **ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

Beginning with 1994, the annual contributions will be as follows:

Category A	300 USD
Category B	200 USD
Category C	50 USD

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

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

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

### **OLDER NUMBERS OF THE UIS-Bulletin**

Volumes 1 to 38 of the **UIS-Bulletin** are available on the request by the UIS Past-President Univ. Prof. Dr. Mag Hubert Trimmel (Draschestrasse 77, A-1230 Wien, Austria). Volumes 39 to 49 are available on the request by the UIS Secretary General Dr. Pavel Bosák (Vol. 43 and 47/1 was not distributed by mail!).

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### **UIS WEB DOMAIN**

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

The UIS is registered as non-profit non-governmental body according to Slovenian law at District Municipality in  
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