



# INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF **CAVES** AND **KARST** 2021

## *A Planning Guide*

### **ALSO IN THIS ISSUE**

- New venue for the 18<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Speleology 2021
  - 2025 International Congress of Speleology: Call for proposals
  - Help for fire-damaged cave ecosystems in Australia
  - Reports of Commissions
  - Trashbonding & Guardians of The Earth
  - Derek Ford, UIS Past President, honored in Canada
  - UIS Bureau Meeting Minutes in Bohol, Philippines
- and much more...*



Official publication of the UIS for publicizing the activities of the UIS and the state of the art of international speleology - ©2019

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Founded in Postojna, Slovenia, 1965

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**Deadline for submissions for the next issue (N° 62-1): June 20, 2020**

**COVER PHOTO:**

**Amaterska Cave, Czech Republic.** Photo chosen for the cover of the International Year of Caves and Karst leaflet.

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SAVE A TREE; DO NOT  
PRINT IF UNNECESSARY**

## Editorial

# ARE YOU READY?

By Efraín MERCADO VÁZQUEZ (Puerto Rico)  
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When someone asks “**Are you ready?**,” the main reaction is to answer, “**For what?**” That means that there is a full spectrum of situations to be ready for. Cavers around the world, speleologists who are deeply involved in the exploration of the underground beauties, are expecting you are ready for the important incoming events. Those events are related to the celebrations regarding the UIS International Year of Caves and Karst (IYCK) in 2021.

Around the globe, many organizations, caving clubs, nations, scientists, schools, non-governmental organizations (NGO’s) and ordinary people are developing programs to let the whole world and its citizens know the importance of understanding, preserving, and protecting the caves and karst landscape. Know that most aquifer in karst areas serve so many people and their agricultural and recreational areas.

Karst’s importance to the overall economy of many nations is something to take seriously. Many businesses, especially tourism depend on it. International organizations grouped for adequate and environmentally friendly management of show caves like the International Show Cave Association (ISCA) know it. People whose drinking water comes out from a karstic area know it too. UIS country members know it.

Karstic areas and caves could become endangered worldwide if science and knowledge are not present during planning activities of urban development, something that is occurring in some parts of the Americas, especially in Mexico. We need to be ready to take the correct actions to investigate, to inform, to teach and to protect our karst lands and our caves.

As you will see in this edition of the UIS Bulletin, many people, organizations and nations are



**The most important event  
in the history of speleology**

working together, doing the best they can to let everybody know our karst and our caves are important and deserve protection. They are actively teaching in schools, to governments of all levels, and to citizens of all mindsets. The efforts of you, your organizations, and your caving club are necessary. Be ready to join the events of the UIS to actively promote the protection and dissemination of scientific knowledge regarding this issue.

On [page 6](#) of this Bulletin you will find a Planning Guide to help you organize IYCK activities in your country.

Also in the year 2021, during the 18<sup>th</sup> UIS International Congress of Speleology in the University of Savoie, near Chambéry and Mont Blanc, France, the cavers and speleologists of the world will join the largest celebration of the IYCK 2021. Be ready to be there and become part of this historical event. And even though if you cannot attend, be ready to organize your event in your community, your region or your country. Let know everybody this is the International Year of Cave and Karst. Be ready to protect our caves and karst.

For more information about the IYCK, please, visit <http://iyck2021.org/>.



## The President's Column

# INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SPELEOLOGY ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR EVERYONE—EVEN IF YOU DON'T ATTEND!

By Dr. George Veni (USA)

UIS President

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The International Congress of Speleology (ICS) is the UIS' biggest event. The ICS occurs every four years, traveling around the world and generously hosted by the UIS member country organizing it. The purpose of my column this time is to make six ICS announcements, some of which you will find important even if you can't attend the next ICS.

### Send your Bid for the 2025 ICS

While most speleologists think about the ICS only once during those four years, it is a continuous project for the UIS and a six-year project for the host country. Usually about 2 years before an ICS, cavers around the world start thinking seriously about making a bid to host the following ICS. They talk among themselves—are there enough cavers willing to help? Where would be a good location? Does it have good facilities? How much do they cost? Are there enough good caves nearby for excursions? Is the location easy to reach?

If the answers to these and other questions are positive, then the next step is to send a proposal to the UIS Secretary General by 1 July, the year before the ICS. So if you want to host the 2025 ICS, please send your proposal to Secretary General Dr. Fadi Nader ([secretary@uis-speleo.org](mailto:secretary@uis-speleo.org)) no later than 1 July 2020. You must then attend the 2021 ICS and present your proposal to the UIS General Assembly for their decision.

The purpose of the UIS getting the proposals one year in advance is to make sure the ICS is as successful as possible. The UIS Bureau reviews all proposals and makes suggestions to the proposing countries. Organizing an ICS is new for most people, even if they have organized other conferences. The Bureau makes suggestions for the member countries to improve their proposals for the General Assembly, make them fully aware of the needs of the ICS, and, if

they are selected as the next host, help them organize the best ICS possible.

On behalf of the Bureau, we look forward to seeing your proposals in a few months.

### Change of Location for 2021 ICS

When the US developed its proposal to host the ICS in 2009, we advertised the location as San Antonio, Texas. However, a few months before we made our proposal to the UIS General Assembly, a problem occurred with the venue and we had to find a new location. The same thing has happened now with the 2021 ICS. It was planned for Lyon, France, but a problem with the venue forced a change over the past few months.

The 18<sup>th</sup> ICS will now be held in Le Bourget-du-Lac, Savoie, France, from 25 July to 1 August 2021. It is only about 90 km east of Lyon and 70 km south of Geneva, Switzerland, both of which have major international airports. The location is gorgeous, spectacular caves abound, and by all indications this will be a very well attended and enormously successful ICS. For the latest details, follow the 2021 ICS website: <https://uis2021.speleos.fr/>.

### The International Year of Caves and Karst Celebration at the ICS

By now you have probably seen information on the International Year of Caves and Karst (IYCK), which is being organized by the UIS, its member countries, and many other partners. This will be the most important event in the history of speleology and there is important information in this Bulletin on [page 6](#) to help you organize IYCK activities in your countries. But the biggest IYCK celebration will be at the ICS in France. If you were not sure about going to the ICS, think again. You will not want to miss this historic event in Le Bourget-du-Lac!

## Proposed New Dues for Member Countries

How are new dues an ICS announcement? Because the decision about new dues will be made at the ICS by the UIS General Assembly. Usually when people hear about new dues, they think “*Oh no. The dues are increasing!*” That is not the situation this time.

The 2017 General Assembly approved the following member country categories and fees:

**Category A (2000 or more cavers): 480 euros**

**Category B (1000-1999 cavers): 360 euros**

**Category C (100-999 cavers): 240 euros**

**Category D (<100 cavers): 60 euros**

However, when members of the UIS Bureau met with the *Brazilian Speleological Society* earlier this year, our Brazilian friends showed us the higher cost per caver for some countries in Category C. During the UIS Bureau meeting a couple of months later, we discussed this issue, examined our finances, and agreed it would be fairer and affordable for the UIS to divide Category C into two groups, creating the following five member categories:

**Category A (2000 or more cavers): 480 euros**

**Category B (1000-1999 cavers): 360 euros**

**Category C (500-999 cavers): 240 euros**

**Category D (100-499 cavers): 120 euros**

**Category E (<100 cavers): 60 euros**

The Bureau will formally propose these categories to the General Assembly at the 2021 ICS for approval.

## FEALC is the newest UIS Associated Speleological Organization

As we plan for the 2021 ICS, it is important to remember that it will not be only a chance to meet new and old friends, celebrate the IYCK, and enjoy



GEORGE VENI

A few of the many excellent ICS proceedings volumes from 1953 to 1997.

some wonderful caves and activities. Many other important things happen at each ICS. One major example is that during the 1981 ICS, the *Federation of Latin American and Caribbean Speleological Associations (FEALC)* was created. The UIS has long been proud to have helped in the creation of *FEALC* and is even prouder to now have a formal affiliation with *FEALC* as a UIS Associated Speleological Organization.

## All ICS Proceedings are Now Available

When I became UIS President I wanted to fix a problem with the ICS proceedings. They simply were not available to most people.

The proceedings of the 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> ICS, from 1953 to 1997, were available only on paper. They contain a tremendous amount of valuable information, but few people had complete collections and many of the older proceedings were being lost to time and were difficult to find. Starting with the 13<sup>th</sup> ICS in 2001 in Brazil, the ICS proceedings began to be available digitally, but they were often not posted where they could be found and downloaded easily. That has all changed.

Over the past two years, speleologists in the countries that hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> ICS have digitally scanned their paper proceedings. Meanwhile, I collected the digital proceedings from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> ICS so all proceedings could be posted on the *UIS website* and the *Karst Information Portal* (a UIS project that serves as a free on-line cave and karst library). Recently, the final two sets of paper proceedings were scanned. In addition to everyone else I've thanked in previous columns, I now thank Morgane Ronjat, who scanned the 1953 proceedings from the 1<sup>st</sup> ICS in Paris, France, and Alexander Platte who scanned the 1969 proceedings from the 5<sup>th</sup> ICS in Stuttgart, Germany.

Through the efforts of Morgane, Alexander, and many other good people around the world, all 17 proceedings are now freely available. They total 18,893 pages! The ICS, the partnerships it creates, and the proceedings it produces are proof of the power of the UIS—where speleologists unite from around the world to support speleology.

I urge you to come to the 18<sup>th</sup> ICS in France where in 2021 we will celebrate the International Year of Caves and Karst and increase our friendships, knowledge, and influence tremendously to explore, study, and protect the world's caves.



# INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF **CAVES** AND **KARST** 2021

*"Explore, understand and protect"*

[www.iyck2021.org](http://www.iyck2021.org)



Union Internationale  
de Spéléologie

## **PLANNING GUIDE**

**by Dr. George Veni - UIS President**

## An Introduction to the International Year

International years are typically organized under the auspices of the United Nations (UN) or the United Nations Education, Science, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Their primary purpose is to educate the public and celebrate important aspects of life and the world around us. They are a series of events by international teams that include partners from non-governmental organizations, government agencies, businesses, and interested individuals. When the year is over, there is a great worldwide increase in appreciation for the year's topic, which often appears as increases in funding, better regulations, and protection of peoples and important areas.

The International Union of Speleology (UIS) is organizing the International Year of Caves and Karst (IYCK) for 2021. This will not be a UN or UNESCO event. Currently, the UN and UNESCO are not supporting most international years and we have been advised to organize the IYCK on our own. This makes sense because even with UN or UNESCO support, most of the IYCK work will still fall on the UIS and its partners. So what is that work?

This IYCK Planning Guide will give you the information you need to organize events in your countries and raise the level of understanding and respect for caves and karst as globally important physical, ecological, and cultural systems. A successful IYCK will lead to new caves opened for exploration, and more funds and support for exploration, research, management, and protection, at levels we've never seen before.

Let's get started.

## Seven Simple Steps to a Successful IYCK

"Do what you can." This is the simple guidance we give to everyone as they begin their involvement with the IYCK. The UIS will not make your participation in the IYCK difficult or beyond your abilities. We recognize our partners represent diverse cultures,

skills, and resources. Therefore, as you read the following steps, please remember that we ask you to do what will be most successful for your culture, appropriate to your skills, and within the limits of your resources. No single person or group can do everything, but together we will reach people across the world.

While the following steps are written for organizations, from international associations to local clubs, they also apply to people who are not members of organizations but want to contribute as individuals.

### Step 1: *Start Planning Now!*

As you read this, you may think that you have a year or several months before the IYCK, and that you have a lot of time to plan. For many activities, you will need to coordinate now to work effectively with partners and reserve dates on people's calendars, plus reserve places to meet for your events. One year is not much time! By the end of 2020, you will want your activities well planned and announced to maximize the number of the people who will attend.

### Step 2: *Get Organized*

Create a committee or team that is committed to arrange events and activities from your organization. Discuss in general what you would like to do for the IYCK and assign people to work on whatever is needed. That could be a website, social media, or fund raising. Other jobs can be assigned later when more detailed plans are known.

### Step 3: *Create a List of IYCK Activities*

Think about your area and the people you want to reach. Remember that the IYCK is to educate the general public, including educators, politicians, scientists, businesses, and land managers who need to know about the importance of caves and karst. What will interest those people? How can you get them involved? What physical resources are available to you,



such as caves, parks, and lecture halls, and community events you can join, such as festivals, meetings, and parades?

Can you organize one event or several? Ideally, it would be good to have an event every month of 2021 and in different locations and on different topics. If that is not possible, then maybe an event every two or three months. The IYCK is a year-long celebration of caves and karst, so activities that occur throughout the year are best. If this is not possible, do what you can. It will all help.

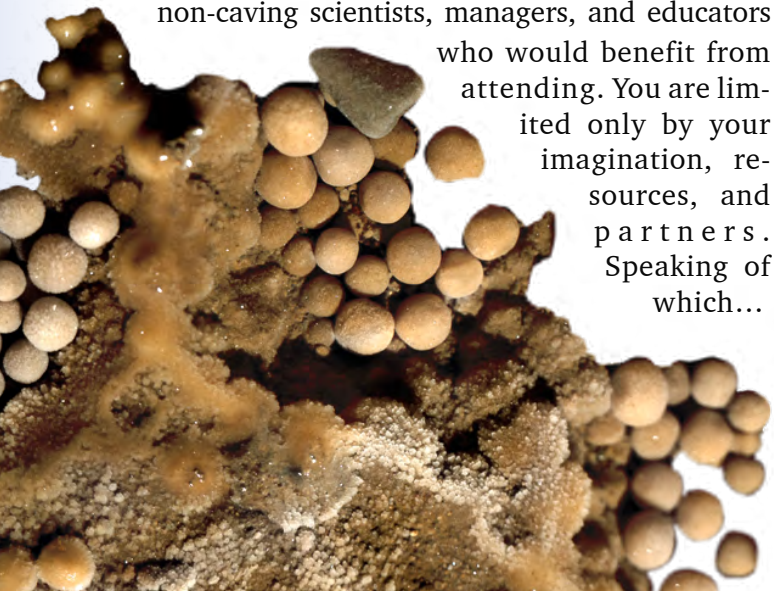
What types of events and activities should you organize? There are many possibilities. Here are a few examples:

- Lectures for the public and school groups.
- Educational caving trips and walks through karst areas.
- Demonstrations of caving techniques.
- Interviews on television and other media.
- Public cave art projects.
- Meetings with politicians and other decision-makers.
- Exhibitions of cave photography.
- Cave film festivals.
- Community clean-ups of trash in sinkholes or graffiti in caves.
- Public conferences, symposia, or other meetings on important cave and karst issues in your area.

Your events should be fun, but also teach the importance of caves and karst and the threats they are facing.

If you are organizing a caving convention or a karst science conference in 2021, you can still include the public. For example, for a caving meeting you may be able to invite the public to participate in rope climbing, SpeleOlympics, and photo exhibition activities. For science meetings, perhaps you can plan to give away a few free registrations to influential non-caving scientists, managers, and educators

who would benefit from attending. You are limited only by your imagination, resources, and partners. Speaking of which...



#### Step 4: *Develop Partnerships*

The world is a big place and we need your help to reach everyone. As you think about partners, don't just think about people who explore or study caves, but people and organizations who don't realize they are affected by caves and karst. Making them partners in the IYCK is a huge step in making the IYCK a success. Here are some examples of potential partnerships:

- Museums for exhibits on caves and karst.
- Parks and show caves to assist with special "cave days" with educational activities.
- Local or regional governments to recognize the IYCK at special events and pass laws needed to better protect caves and karst.
- Environmental and business organizations, to teach them how caves and karst are important parts of our physical and business environments.
- Schools and universities to plan educational events for students of all ages.
- News media for increased publicity on the IYCK.

#### Step 5: *Create and Announce your Schedule of Events*

Promote your events in your area through direct advertising, news and social media, e-mail lists, and through your partners. It is also important to announce your events on the IYCK website: [www.iyck2021.org](http://www.iyck2021.org). In addition, if you see that your national or international organization is not listed as a partner on the IYCK website, send your logo and website address so they can be posted.

While you may work on the IYCK entirely in your area with little or no participation from other regions, listing your events and partnership on the IYCK website will encourage participation from outside your region. It will also demonstrate to everyone the truly international reach of the IYCK. As I write this planning guide, only two events are listed on the website. But it is early and as everyone adds their events the list will grow and increase enthusiasm and support for the IYCK.

With your announcement, make sure to prepare information to distribute at your events. Send people to the IYCK website to learn about caves and karst. Download the IYCK logo and leaflet from the website. Use the logo in your promotions and print as many copies of the leaflet as you can for public distribution (the leaflet is currently available in four languages; if you want to translate it into your language, thank you and please let me know). Find and



distribute other information too, especially if it is important to caves and karst in your area.

**Step 6:  
Host your Events**

Make sure to plan the details of your events well in advance. The only things that should be done at the last minute are the things that can only be done at the last minute. You are trying to impress the world about caves and karst, and to succeed you need to impress everyone that you are prepared, organized, and professional.

Make everyone feel that you are giving them special attention and support. Make it easy for the public to attend and participate in fun and interesting ways. The IYCK should educate, impress, and engage people. If possible, make sure everyone gets a gift or some information they can take home to remember the IYCK. Emphasize the motto of the IYCK: Explore, Understand, and Protect.

**Step 7:  
Record and Post your Events**

During your events, assign someone to take photos, video, and collect other information to record the number of people, activities, and fun. Afterward, post them on your website and social media. It is also critically important to also post or link them to the IYCK website. In early 2022, we hope to have records of all IYCK events around the world on the IYCK website. This is vital to prove the IYCK was a success, and that caves, karst, and their explorers and scientists should be taken seriously.

**Summary**

Last year I wrote that the UIS is the International Union of Speleology:

**International—everyone in the world!  
Union—working together, and for what?  
Speleology.**

For the IYCK to succeed, I ask everyone who enjoys and cares for caves to join the UIS in creating IYCK events for your town, region, and country.

The UIS, its member countries, organizational partners, and individual cave explorers, scientists, managers, and educators have done tremendous work over many decades to improve the world's understanding and appreciation of caves and karst. However, despite all of our combined accomplishments, caves continue to be destroyed. Trash is still dumped underground. Karst aquifers are polluted. Many rare cave ecosystems are now endangered. Precious archaeological and paleontological materials in caves are still commonly lost and looted. And sadly, many government officials, educators, and even scientists and environmental managers do not understand caves and karst enough to prevent these tragedies, or even recognize that they are tragedies.

With your help, together we will educate the world through the IYCK about our precious caves and karst areas. Together, we can save the world's caves and karst for the future.

Please watch the IYCK website for news, send ideas and information to improve the website and IYCK, and feel free to contact me (gveni@nckri.org) or other members of the UIS Bureau at any time if you need assistance or have questions.



Please download this leaflet from <http://iyck2021.org/>  
Then print and distribute it!



# CALL FOR PROPOSALS: 2025 INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SPELEOLOGY

By George Veni (USA)

UIS President

[gveni@nckri.org](mailto:gveni@nckri.org)

As the UIS prepares for the 2021 International Congress of Speleology in France, it is time to start thinking about the 2025 International Congress of Speleology. The UIS Bureau asks that any country wishing to make a bid to host a Congress must send a proposal one year in advance. That means if you want to bid on organizing the 2025 Congress in your country, we need your proposal by 1 July 2020.

Why would you want to organize a Congress? Teach the world what you are doing. Learn from the rest of the world, especially for your cavers who can't easily travel internationally. Influence politicians, lawmakers, and land managers in your country with the Congress and show them you live in a major, important, speleological country. Develop friendships and partnerships to grow your speleological activities for many years to come.

The proposal should include discussion of the following:

- Location
- Facilities large enough for the Congress
- Hotels and camping
- Transportation to reach the Congress location
- Available excursion locations for caving and technical trips
- Which organization will organize the Congress

• How many cavers and other groups are available to help

• Costs

• Any special events (such as national conventions) that might be part of the Congress

• Anything else you think is important

We do not need great detail on these topics. We are looking for enough information to see that you understand the needs of the Congress and to help you with your proposal if you are missing important information. Our goal is to make sure that by the time you make your bid in 2021 in France to the UIS General Assembly, that each proposal is as good and complete as possible. This will help make your Congress as successful as possible.

As you prepare your proposals, please study the guidelines on organizing a Congress at [https://www.uis-speleo.org/documents/administrative\\_documents/Guidelines%20for%20the%20organization%20of%20the%20UIS%20Congresses.pdf](https://www.uis-speleo.org/documents/administrative_documents/Guidelines%20for%20the%20organization%20of%20the%20UIS%20Congresses.pdf). They will help you understand what is expected of each Congress, and how to prepare for it.

We look forward to seeing your proposals no later than 1 July 2020. Please send them to UIS Secretary General Fadi Nader at [secretary@uis-speleo.org](mailto:secretary@uis-speleo.org) and let me know if you have any questions.



## SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

# PRESERVING THE CLIMATE MEMORY OF VANISHING EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN SUBTERRANEAN GLACIERS

A project of the UIS Glacier, Firn, and Ice Caves Commission under patronage and with financial support from UIS

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### Aim

The aim of this project is to conduct morphological, climatic and glaciological surveys in the ice-hosting caves in the wider Eastern Mediterranean region (Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Lebanon and Turkey) in order to understand the genesis of the cave glaciers and the mechanisms linking their physical, chemical and dynamical characteristics with climatic conditions outside caves as a tool for reconstructing past climate characteristics in the study region.

### Activities

In 2019, we ran three expeditions to caves in Croatia and Greece. In June 2019, a team of six visited **Crna Ledenica Cave** (Fig. 1) in the Biokovo Massif (Southern Croatia), aiming to install climate monitoring sensors, map the extent of cave glaciation and collect samples for  $^{14}\text{C}$  and stable isotope analyses.

We have placed markers to record ice levels against which future ice level changes will be measured. From the lower part of the ice block, we have collected five samples of organic matter for  $^{14}\text{C}$  dating (Fig. 2), samples that have been sent to Beta Analytic (<https://www.radiocarbon.com>) for age determination.

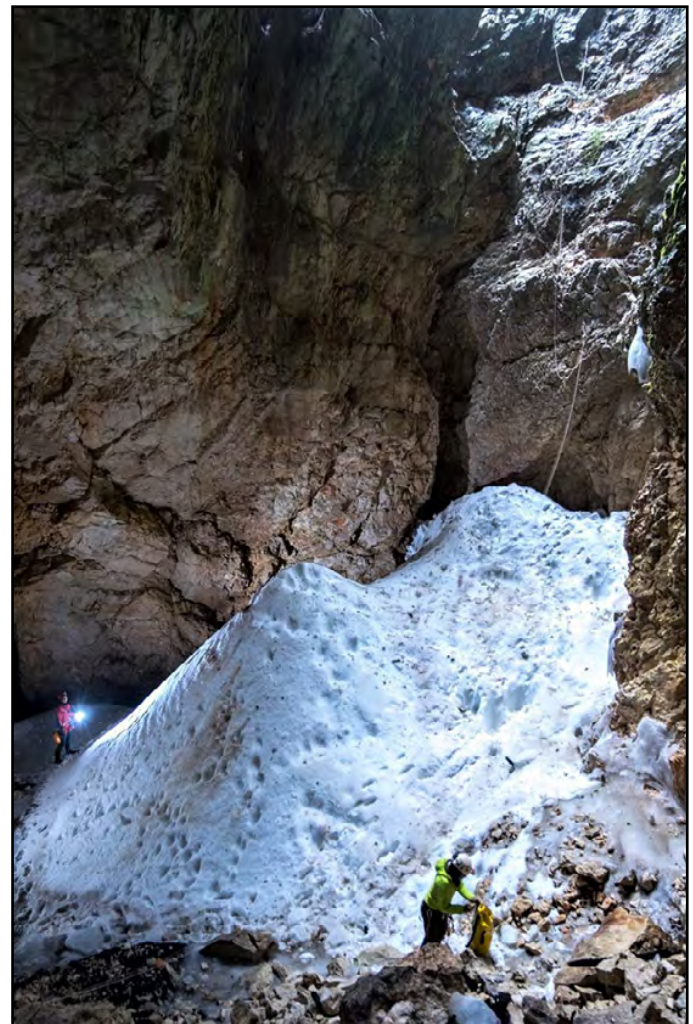


Fig. 1 - The snow and ice cone at the base of entrance shaft in Crna Ledenica, Croatia.

ŽELJKO MARUŃIĆ BOSPOR

Due to a failure in the drilling equipment, no samples were taken for stable isotope analyses. In September 2019, a team led by Dr. Nenad Buzjak (University of Zagreb) returned to the cave and collected samples for stable isotope analyses. These samples are now at the Emil Racoviță Institute of Speleology (Romania) and analyses for determining  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta^2\text{H}$  (proxies of past air temperature) were scheduled for November 2019.

In September 2019, an expedition to Chionotripa Cave, Falakro Mountain (Greece, *Fig. 3*) was organized by Dr. Christos Pennos (Bergen University), in which Christos Pennos, Stavros Zachariadis,

Yorgos Sotiriadis, Tasos Polychroniades, Ioanna Mylona, and Aurel Perșoiu participated. The aim was to assess the past dynamics of the ice block in the cave, install data loggers, and collect samples for  $^{14}\text{C}$  and stable isotope analyses. We have installed three temperature and relative humidity sensors from the entrance to the ice body and mapped the extent of ice in the entrance pit. A snow avalanche that occurred between July 2018 and September 2019 led to the exposure of the lower, layered, section of the ice block (*Fig. 4*), from where we collected nine samples of organic matter that were sent for  $^{14}\text{C}$  analyses to Beta Analytic.

## Results

We have collected five samples of organic matter from Crna Ledenica (Croatia) and nine from Chionotripa (Greece) and sent them to a radiocarbon laboratory for age determination. Further, in both caves, we have installed a network of sensors and data loggers that will measure, with hourly



ŽELJKO MARUNČIĆ BOSPOR

**Fig. 2** - Sampling for organic matter in the lower part of Crna Ledenica, Croatia.



AUREL PERȘOIU

**Fig. 3** - Lower section of the Chionotripa ice block. The red star marks the location of the sampling site in *Fig. 4*. The arrow points towards the upper face of the block (*Fig. 5* on the next page).



YORGOS SOTIRIADIS

**Fig. 4** - Sampling for organic matter and ice in the layered section of the ice block (marked with red star in *Fig. 3*).

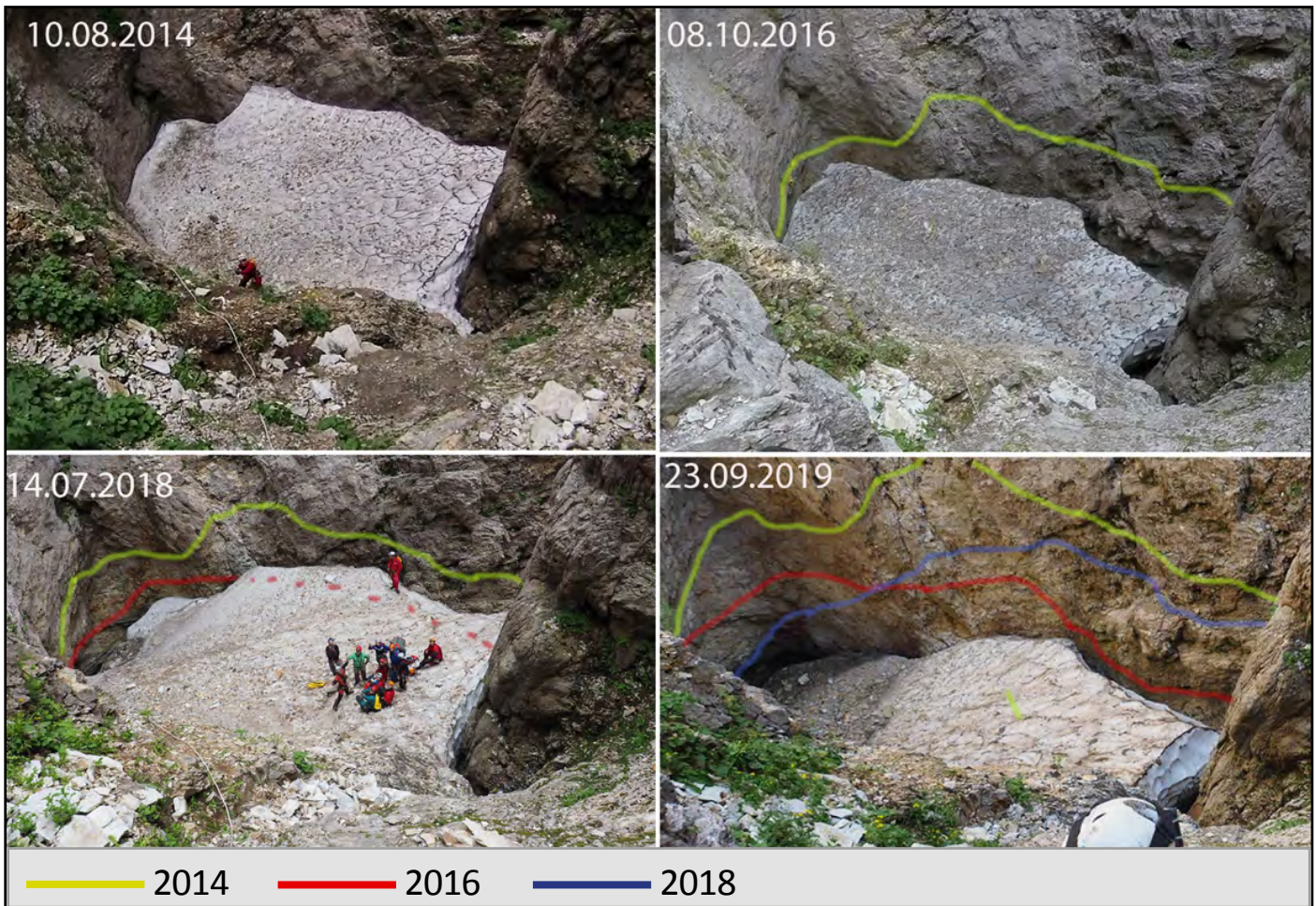


Fig. 5 - Ice level reduction in Chionotripa cave (Falakro). All photos and interpretations by Yorgos Sotiriadis.

resolution and precision of 0.01 (according to the manufacturer, but from our experience, the accuracy is closer to 0.5 °C).

From both caves, we have collected samples for stable isotope analyses (42 from Crna Ledenica and 101 from Chionotripa), the results being expected in January 2020.

Based on repeated photography from Chionotripa, we have noticed a catastrophic (up to 3 m of snow and ice) loss of cave ice in 2019 (Fig. 5), likely resulting from direct rain-on-snow and infiltration water reaching the cave in spring and early summer, when southeast Europe experienced record-hitting rains. We have further analyzed ice levels in caves from Croatia (Crna Ledenica), Romania (Scărișoara Ice Cave) and Slovakia (Dobsinska Ice Cave), as well as in surface glaciers in Bulgaria and observed a similar pattern of record ice loss.

The Greek expedition was featured in the Kathimerini newspaper (<https://www.kathimerini.gr/1045821/gallery/epikairothta/ellada/ta-mystika-twn-pagosphlaiwn>), with the funding provided by the UIS acknowledged in the text: “**The study is partly funded by the Romanian**

**Academy of Sciences and the International Union of Speleology”.**

### Financial information

We have used the funds provided by the UIS and Caving Club Samobor to acquire data loggers from Gemini Data Loggers and Onset, and develop and construct ice drilling devices (three are in the custody of the University of Zagreb, and four at the Institute of Speleology in Cluj Napoca) used in the drilling effort. The work in Crna Ledenica was partially financed by Biokovo Nature Park.

### Plans for 2020

In January 2020 we plan to drill in several ice caves in Romania, and in summer 2020 we will visit ice caves in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Olympus Mountains and possibly Crete (Greece). We have initiated discussions with speleologists in Turkey and Iran for future expeditions. The ice caves in Lebanon, initially targeted by our study, turned out to be seasonal features, thus unlikely to be further investigated.



## REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2019

# HISTORY OF SPELEOLOGY COMMISSION

By Bernard Chirol (France)

*President of the UIS History of Speleology Commission*

*Adjunct Secretary of the UIS*

[bearchirol@orange.fr](mailto:bearchirol@orange.fr)

This period was a very busy one with many meetings all over the world for all of us. Preparing the 18<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Speleology (ICS) is also a great task and a pleasure.

Le Bourget-du-Lac, Savoie, France, is the new place of the congress, not so far from Lyon. It is in a lovely place surrounded by the Alps! See the newsletter on [page 43](#), and the new poster on [page 44](#). We are waiting for you in July 2021!

Here are some reports 2019 of the colleagues of the History Commission:

### **Arrigo Cigna (Italy)**

*Past President of the UIS*

I have no news for History, in the next year I will deliver a paper at ALCADI 2020 in Gorizia describing the life of some important speleologists outside caves in their normal life. Many of them were my good friends and I have a direct knowledge.

Arrigo also writes on Bernard Gèze and how he went to the Presidency of the UIS in 1965. Christophe Gauchon and Bernard Chirol were contacted.

Happy New Year to you all.

### **Friedhardt Knolle (Germany)**

*Vice-President of the History of Speleology Commission*

Rainer Straub, Bilgin Yazlik and Ali Yamaç worked on a cave church with impressive Christian frescos in central Anatolia which is facing the risk of being destructed irrevocably. The 800-1000 year old paintings are part of the unique Christian “cave architecture” in Cappadocia, thus it is essential to protect them. They described a nearly unknown cave church in the Koramaz valley, documenting the colourful paintings as well as the current condition of this inimitable monument for the first time.

Mélie Le Roy and Jan Seikowski published news on a 2014 finding: German speleologists discovered a Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age burial cave site (Aven Janna) in the Cèze Valley in the north of Gard Département (France). The cave was immediately secured to prevent illicit excavations, after grave robbers had destroyed comparable sites in the area repeatedly. First archaeological investigations were carried out by the archaeologists Philippe Galant and Mélie le Roy, assisted by local speleologists. Further excavations are ongoing.

### **Joseph C Douglas, Ph.D. (USA)**

*Professor of History*

*Volunteer State Community College*

1480 Nashville Pike- Gallatin, TN 37066

Marion Smith and I have been writing up the results for our last project “Mammoth Cave, Ky. during the American Civil War.” Earlier in 2019 I initiated a related, broader study of historic graffiti at Mammoth Cave, which extends from the Saltpeter Era (c. 1812) to the creation of the National Park (1940). This includes looking at historic art in the cave, of which there is a lot. Frankly, we assess all sorts of cultural and historic resources at the same time. For example, we have located several new panels of prehistoric art in Mammoth while looking at the cave walls.

Similarly, we have located and begun to study several new prehistoric art caves in Kentucky, and recently one in the state of Indiana. I hope to present preliminary results in early 2020, with more complete reports by the time of the ICS.

### **Jasminko Mulaomerovic (Bosnia)**

In Bosnia and Herzegovina during 2019, published the Proceedings of the Symposium ALCADI 2018 and prepared for the publication (hopefully by the end of the year) a book listing caves from the eastern part of Herzegovina known since 1885.

### **Vlado Božić (Croatia)**

*Commission for Speleology of the Croatian Mountaineering Association - Section for History of Speleology*

Zagreb, Croatia, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019

## SHORT STATISTICAL REPORT

### **Caves:**

This year I visited many caves and pits in Gorski kotar (Golubinjak, Zlobin, Kupjak) and Lika (Perušić, Slunj, Generalski stol), explored 50 and more years ago. I only visited entrance areas for new documentation (GPS position, photo of the entrance, placing a numbered benchmark near the entrance) all needed for the speleological database.

I visited the 950-m long cave Veternica (near Zagreb) and the 1-km long cave Piskovica (in Austria) for training..

### **Education and association**

- Exams in Zagreb for the vocation “Speleologist” - as instructor.
- Seminar in Zagreb, about speleological evocation - as participant.
- Speleological course of the Speleo club “Željezničar” - in the training hall in Zagreb and in Klana speleological camp (two caves) - as instructor.

I lectured “History of speleology in Croatia” on the speleological courses of the caving clubs in Zagreb “Željezničar” and “Ozren Lukić”, and on the mountaineering courses of the mountaineering clubs “Zagreb-Matica” and “Željezničar”.

At the annual speleological meeting in Pazin (Istria) I lectured “Podsjetnik na 15. studeni 1949. - osnivanje prve špiljarske ili speleološke sekcije u PD “Zagreb” u Zagrebu (Reminder on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 1949 - Foundation of the first “caving” or “speleological” section in the Mountaineering club “Zagreb”, in Zagreb). Anthology of abstracts, Pazin, 22.-24. 11. 2019, Pazin, p. 28.

### **Publications published in 2019**

- Vlado Božić: Bužimske podzemne utvrde (Bužim underground fortifications). Senjski zbornik (The Anthology of Senj), Senj, Vol. 4, for 2018, p. 503-517.
- Vlado Božić: O podrijetlu imena Dinara (About the origin of the name Dinara). Hrvatski planinar (Croatian mountaineer), Zagreb, 2019, No.3, p. 153-154.
- Vlado Božić: Ledena špilja na Dachsteinu (Ice cave in Dachstein), Hrvatski planinar (Croatian mountaineer), Zagreb, 2019, No.4, p. 18-182.
- Vlado Božić: Opis Gospodske špilje iz 1855. godine (Description of the Gospodska cave from 1855), Hrvatski planinar (Croatian mountaineer), Zagreb, 2019, No.4, p. 187-192.
- Vlado Božić: Prije 70 godina - Osnivanje prve SS (70 years ago - Foundation of the first speleological section). Hrvatski planinar (Croatian mountaineer), Zagreb, 2019, No.10, p. 463.
- Vlado Božić, Zrinka Matić, Valerija Butorac: Željeznicom do jame - Osvrt na početke Željezničara (With the railway to caves - Looking back on the beginning of Željezničar). Speleolog, Zagreb, Vol. 66, for 2018, p. 60-67.
- Vlado Božić: In memoriam - Naš prijatelj Tatek - Slavko Tomerlin (Our friend Tatek). Speleolog, Zagreb, Vol. 66, for 2018, p. 89-91.
- Vlado Božić: In memoriam - Ivica Posarić (1937.-2018.). Speleolog, Zagreb, Vol. 66, for 2018, p. 92-93.
- Vlado Božić: In memoriam - Vlado Kalata (1932.-2015.). Speleolog, Zagreb, Vol. 66, for 2018, p. 94-95.
- Vlado Božić: Posjet špilji Svijet ledenih divova - U Austriji 1977. i 2018. (Visit to the cave Eisriesenwelt in Austria in 1977 and 2018). Cipelcug, Zagreb, for 2018, No. 2, p. 134-141.
- Vlado Božić: Voda u utrobi Brača (Water in

the intestines of the Brač island). Cipelcug, Zagreb, for 2018, No. 2, p. 142-147.

### **In preparation**

• Vlado Božić: Speleološko Školovanje u Hrvatskoj - Speleološki Priručnik (Speleological Education in Croatia - Speleological Manual), 64 pages, ready for printing (in January 2020), digital version is accessible on the portal of HPS (Hrvatski Planinarski Savez/Croatian Mountaineering Association) - <https://www.hps.hr/>.

• Vlado Božić: Crtime iz povijesti speleologije u svijetu (Short line of history of speleology in the world), working material, need review, intended for publishing in 2021.

### **Johannes Mattes (Austria)**

In 2019, Mattes published one monograph and one journal article on the history of speleology:

J. Mattes: Wissenskulturen des Subterranean. Vermittler im Spannungsfeld zwischen Wissenschaft und Öffentlichkeit. Ein biografisches Lexikon. Vienna, Cologne, Weimar: Böhlau 2019, 572 pp. (Book reviews appeared in: International Journal of Speleology, 2019; Die Höhle, 2019; Höhlenkundliche Mitteilungen, 2019).

J. Mattes: Entre nature et culture: les grottes, cabinets de curiosités naturelles à l'époque moderne (traduit par Claudine Cohen, EHESS, Paris). In: Communications n°105(2), 2019, p. 13-26.

In 2019, he gave four oral presentations on the history of speleology (mapping, surveying, verticality, scientific laymen) at the following conferences:

- Conference of the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Sciences, Vancouver, June 2019.
- Workshop on Verticality in the History of Sciences, Max-Planck-Institute for the History of Sciences, Berlin, June 2019.
- Book presentation, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, October 2019.
- Annual Conference of the Ignaz-Lieben-Society, Vienna, November 2019.

Currently, he is working on an article on cave mapping in early modern times.

### **Stephen CRAVEN (South Africa)**

314) An Apartheid Absurdity: Racial Segregation at Cango Cave - Bulletin of the National Library of South Africa (Dec. 2018) 72. (2), 135 – 150. Republished (2019) Cave and Karst Science, 46. (1), 30-36.

315) Speleo-fiction: its contribution to the death of Louis MacNeice (1907-1963). Cave and Karst Science (2018) 45. (3), 111 – 112.

316) Reply to Professor Tim Atkinson's correspondence... (re 315). Cave and Karst Science (2019) 46. (3), 139.

317) Book review: UNISA 1873–2018 The Making of a Distance Learning University by Andrew Manson 2018. Pretoria, UNISA Press. Price ZAR550-00. Pp. xxi + 415. ISBN 978-1-77615-043-4 (hardback). Transactions of the Royal Society of South Africa (2019) 74. (1), 97 – 99; DOI:10.1080/0035919X.2018.1561541.

318) William John Burchell (1781–1863): missed opportunities to contribute to South African Speleohistory.

### **Bernard Chirol (France)**

*President of the UIS History of Speleology Commission*

*UIS Adjunct Secretary*

*French Delegate for UIS*

My 2019 work on history began on March 8<sup>th</sup> with a presentation in my village of Vaux-en-Bugey about women cavers in the world. The second was the first special meeting in Azé (Saône et Loire, France) on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of March. It was about “désobstruction” (understand unblocking) in French caving. It was the occasion for me to present the main works and workers in my county (Ain, France). A special publication exists now with the proceedings of this conference. Thanks to Lionel Barriquand and his team.

A regional congress stood in Vassieux-en-Vercors and it was for me the occasion to speak about the longest system (Falconette-Sangles) of my county (more than 23 km). The explorations were led by the GSHL (my caving-group) and by its president Bruno Hugon, a famous explorer also active in China, in New-Guinea, in Crete...

The history of our activity in this hydrogeological system began in 1990 and goes to today.

The potential is more than 30 km but a problematic sump blocks the divers from Lyon at the depth of 123 m in an upper cave. The human exploration will be difficult but underground waters (we have three rivers in this karstic aquifer) that go 510 meters through the south Jura mountain. Post, and pre congress camps in July 2021 will allow our colleagues to visit this place.

From the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of May, a new expedition in Cyprus permitted me to explore a new cave with nice speleothems near Fig Tree cave in the north. Thanks to Salih, Inan and other friends who have worked with me. The new history book about caving in Cyprus was one of the goals of this new expedition too. My complete report about this caving trip is available at the FFS office (CREI).

The French National Congress of La Ciotat near Marseille was successful with more than 1000 attendees. Next National Bureau will be elected at the end of May 2020.

Representatives of the UIS Bureau went in Lyon between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of July to visit the venue of the 18<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Speleology (ICS) 2021, in Villeurbanne-Lyon and we also went caving in Savoie (Grotte de Pré-Rouge) near the future place of the Congress.

I think that Lyon remains a fabulous place to visit before, during, or after the 18<sup>th</sup> ICS, which has changed location to Savoie-Tachnolac. And we don't lose by this change considering the caving sites of this region in the Alps, and the welcoming quality of this university where “Karst 2018” was organized with tributes to Yves Quinif and Richard Maire. And what can I say more about the beauty of this place!

From the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of September, with the help of the CREI (FFS) and the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Committee I could attend the Asian Union of Speleology meeting organized in Philippines (Bohol, Panglao). It was the occasion to meet Asian colleagues and to promote the 18<sup>th</sup> ICS.

In Panglao I shared my work about the world's history of women cavers, general caving history and my new lecture about the world's history of karstology.

We had also a UIS Bureau meeting with many colleagues present among whom Andy Eavis, UIS Past President. Read on [page 33](#) of this UIS Bulletin for the minutes of our Bureau meeting and, if you need it, ask for report about the Philippines meeting from the office...(FFS) by writing to the French Federation of Speleology (FFS), please write to [secretariat@ffspeleo.fr](mailto:secretariat@ffspeleo.fr).

By now you probably understand that the next UIS congress will be held in France. It is a major subject for us and the board of the organization. Work on the congress is led by Laurence Tanguille, and there is much to do.

The congress organizing committee has met several times in Lyon, Soyons, Savoie, February the 28<sup>th</sup>, April the 4<sup>th</sup>, June the 27<sup>th</sup>, July the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, September the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> for scientific committee, November the 13<sup>th</sup>, December the 21<sup>th</sup> in Savoie-Technolac.

The submission of papers will open soon, and the registration in July. I am working hard for the organization of the excursions on Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup> of July 2021, as my colleague Yves Contet is doing for the pre and post camps organized by several committees, clubs.

The International Year of Caves and Karst will welcome each activity in the world in 2021.

I must add that my book about world history of women underground goes on. It will be finished this year and published the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2021 for the Day of Women's Rights.

I wish to my colleague Christian Dodelin (UIS Rescue Commission) to recover.

Happy new caving year!





EXPEDITION REPORT

# INTERNATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL EDUCATIONAL EXPEDITIONS ON CYPRUS

by Mladen Garašić<sup>1</sup>, Davor Garašić<sup>1</sup>, Ivan Krpina<sup>1</sup>, Fadi Nader<sup>2</sup> & Johnny Tawk<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Society for the Research, Surveying and Filming on Karst Phenomena Zagreb (DISKF Zagreb), Croatia

<sup>2</sup> SpeleoClub du Liban (SCL), Beyrouth, Lebanon

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PHOTOS BY  
Mladen Garašić

After organizing international speleological expeditions in Tanzania, Iran and Lebanon in the past ten years, the UIS (International Union of Speleology) team came to Cyprus in March 2017. Its mission was to support the EU project called **“The Caves of Kyrenia Mountains project: Research, Conservation and Education”**. Trainers from Lebanon and Croatia taught Cypriots caving techniques, cave topography and cave photography. The training included both theoretical and practical parts. During the expedition the deepest and longest known cave on Cyprus was explored. All together 11 caves were explored. This was the first time in history that all cavers from Cyprus undertook any caving education together. At the end of this expedition, 17 people were trained in basic caving.

The second part of the training was held in

October and November 2017. Experienced international trainers from Lebanon and Croatia had been teaching Cypriot cavers the theoretical and practical parts of caving techniques, cave topography and cave photography. Ten people successfully finished the second part of the basic cave training. Until that time only about 160 caves were known on Cyprus.

In April and May 2018 the third part of the training was held. It was wonderful to see Greek and Turkish Cypriots forming a united caving community, exploring caves and helping each other.

Eleven Cypriot cavers are now well trained thanks to the UIS trainers from Croatia, Lebanon, France, and USA. They have knowledge in technical speleology, rigging, SRT, mapping, photography, geology and speleogenesis.

A year and a half of working and training with



**Smoky Cave**, one of the deepest vertical caves in Kyrenia (Cyprus).



**Incirli Cave**, in the north of Cyprus, is the largest cave in the island. Formed in gypsum, it contains an amazing collection of stalactites and stalagmites.

Cypriot cavers during this project has come to an end with the everyone being satisfied with the outcomes. Today there are about 220 known caves on Cyprus. The deepest one, with a depth a little bit more than 200 meters (Pentadaktilos Cave - Sinkhole) and the longest one measures about 350 meters in length.

This project was funded by European Union. Sponsors were: Cyprus Center for European and

International Affairs, Near East University and University of Nicosia, American Embassy on Cyprus, European Speleological Federation (FSE), and Union Internationale de Spéléologie (UIS). We have been together in many interesting and new caves there.

Thanks to our friends for excellent hospitality on Cyprus.



About 220 caves are known in Cyprus – the longest is about 350 meters long, and the deepest is about 205 meters deep.



Members of the second part of expedition.



**All members of third part of speleo education expedition on Cyprus:**

**Standing, from left to right:** Johnny Tawk, Fadi Nader, Mustafa Merakli, Andreas Antoniou, Yusuf Demirel, Salih Gücel, Ömer Merakli Muh, Lauren Satterfield, Annosheh Iravanian, Joey Abou Jaoudeh, Elena Ktisti, Ivan Krpina, Simge Ozturk, Davor Garašić, Jr Abou Nader,

**Seated, from left to right:** Sertunc Akdogu, Didier Cailhol, Inan Tasci, Huseyin Gozutok, Alla Raiyhe, Chadi Chaker, Stephanie Maihac, Habib Helou, Philippe Audra, Firuz Aytunç, Tomislav Gospodinović, and Kelly Elizabeth.

Mladen Garašić, author of the photo, completes the group.



CAVE RESCUE TRAININGS IN BRAZIL

# A DECADE OF PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN BRAZIL AND FRANCE

by Diego Ferreira (Brazil)  
Section of Cave Rescue of the Brazilian Society of Speleology (SER/SBE)  
Administrative Coordinator  
Technical Advisor for the State of São Paulo  
[diego@espeleorresgate.com.br](mailto:diego@espeleorresgate.com.br)

English version by Linda El-Dash (USA/Brazil)  
[linda.eldash@gmail.com](mailto:linda.eldash@gmail.com)



**S**eptember 2019. The Section of Cave Rescue of the Brazilian Society of Speleology (SER/SBE <https://www.espeleorresgate.com.br/>), in conjunction with the French Cave Rescue Team (Spéléo Secours Français–SSF <https://www.speleo-secours.fr/>) conducted the ninth Basic Course of Cave Rescue, simultaneously with the third Advanced Courses in Assistance and First Aid for Victims and Management of Cave Rescue Operations.

A total of 50 students participated in the courses. Of these, nine work as guides in the region, with eight from the Conservational Unit of PETAR and one from that of the Devil’s Cave.

The courses received support from various sources: PETAR, the Forest Foundation (Fundação Florestal), Brazilia’s Speleo Group, Panorama Ambiental, Aerius Sportive Caving (*Aerius Espeleologia Esportiva*), Jaguatirica Inn, and Grimp Equipamentos.

Since 2016, the region of the Valley of the Ribeira River, eastern region of Brazil, has hosted a national simulation of cave rescue, two basic courses, and four advanced courses. This year’s courses were especially important, as they commemorated a decade of collaboration between the SSF and the Brazilian Cave Rescue Team, today constituting part of the SER.

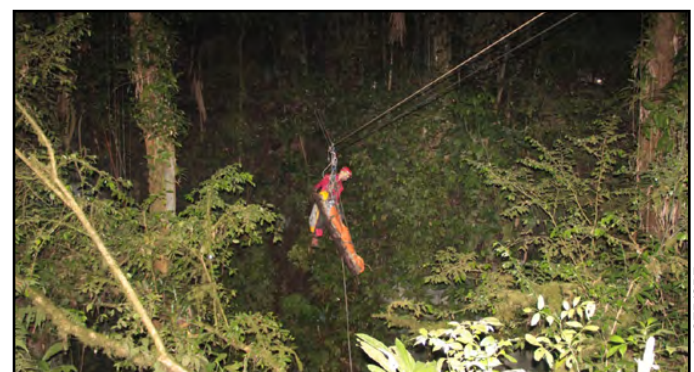


**Birthday cake:** Brazil and France celebrating 10 years of partnership in cave rescue training in Brazil.

The Department of the State of São Paulo of the SER gives priority to the strengthening of the Forest Foundation of the State of São Paulo and the Units of Conservation, with the aim of preventing accidents and the training of specialized teams which can cooperate with the responsible government agency (fire brigade) and assist in cave rescue operations.

The national courses take place annually, but the departments of the SER conduct other technical training throughout the year.

In 2020, the annual course is planned to take place in the state of Minas Gerais, and it will certainly count on the institutional support of the UIS.



*Theoretical classes (left) and practical activities (right) of cave rescue in 2019, in Brazil. Speleological associations united to improve safety in speleological activities as well as support to government agencies in case rescues in caves are needed.*

CONGRESS REPORT

# 14<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL MEXICAN CONGRESS OF SPELEOLOGY, CNME 2019

Hermosillo, Sonora, 1-4 February 2019

By M. Sc. Omar Calva (Mexico)  
*Biologist and Secretary of XIV CNME Organizing Committee*  
[omarcalva13@gmail.com](mailto:omarcalva13@gmail.com)

Luis de la Fuente (Mexico)  
*Biologist and Logistics of XIV CNME Organizing Committee*  
[alfonsoluis2002@msn.com](mailto:alfonsoluis2002@msn.com)



## Introduction

The CNME 2019 was presented under the theme “Arid Lands Caves”, to demonstrate that the Sonoran Desert has caves and could be a new zone with potential for speleological studies. Although the Sonoran Desert has few karstic areas, it has some important underground environments to show.

The Great Desert of Altar and Pinacate Biosphere Reserve has the biggest maternity cave roost of the migratory Lesser Long-Nosed Bat (*Leptonycteris yerbabuena*), which is a key pollinator and seed dispenser in North America. The state also has caves with high diversities of cave adapted species and the presence of lava tubes, abandoned mines and caves with evidence of our local ancestors.

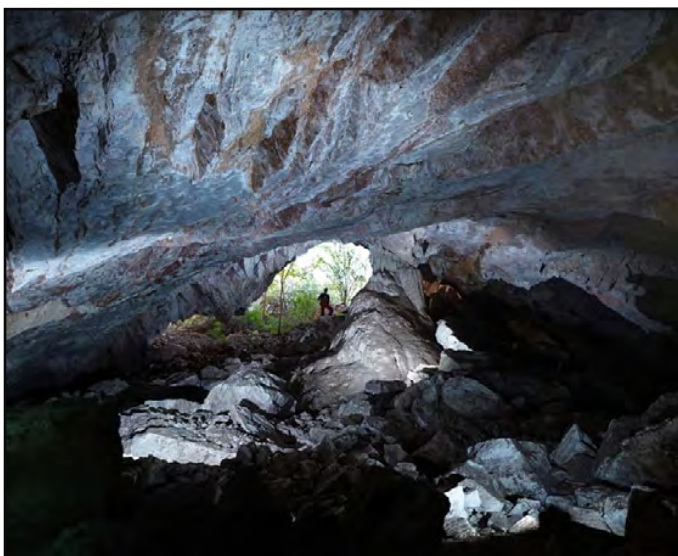
These discoveries inspired us to coordinate the CNME 2019 and welcome the speleological community

of Mexico and cavers around the world to our arid land, Sonora.

The Congress was a forum for the exchange of research, exploration and natural history. The program contained lectures, poster sessions, workshops, art exhibitions, competitions in photography, cartography and field trips.

## Congress Support

Partners of the Congress included International Union of Speleology (UIS), the Federación Espeleológica de America Latina y del Caribe (FEALC, in Spanish), the National Speleological Society (NSS/USA) and the Association for Mexican Cave Studies (AMCS). There were 22 companies, associations, agencies and institutions who provided financial or material sponsorship support.



KATSUJI YOSHIDA

Entrance of Cueva de la Mariana, Sonora, Mexico.



© 14<sup>th</sup> CNME 2019

Inauguration of the 14<sup>th</sup> National Mexican Congress of Speleology, CNME 2019.

## Organization of the Congress

The Congress was organized by the CNME 2019 Organizing Committee, a committee formed by the members of Grupo Pionero Espeleológico de Sonora (G-PES) and with the supervision and coordination of Mexican Union of Speleological Associations (UMAE).

There were many volunteers who could not be fully listed here but we thank the supportive staff who helped us in many ways during the Congress. More than 25 volunteers contributed and helped us to make the event a success, especially to the supportive staff from University of Sonora and ACTUES group.

## Promotion of the CNME 2019

The CNME 2019 Organizing Committee established a Facebook Page ([www.facebook.com/CNME2019](http://www.facebook.com/CNME2019)) and created a space inside the official website of UMAE (<https://umae.org/congreso2021>) to promote and inform attendees of the progress and news of the Congress. Other ways to promote the event included an email subscribers list of UMAE, radio and television interviews, newsletters of the NSS and AMCS, and several local press conference.

Congress promotion was assisted by the Mexican Union of Speleological Associations, the UIS Bureau, our partners (FEALC, NSS) and a number of international federations around the world who shared every announcement and post. G-PES and UMAE promoted the Congress extensively in Latin America.

In addition, CNME 2019 was promoted at local universities and congresses related in Sonora and in the USA at the NSS Convention and Madrean Conference 2018 by attending and providing promotional material and presentations.



© 14<sup>th</sup> CNME 2019

Members of the Organizing Committee and volunteer staff of the 14<sup>th</sup> National Mexican Congress of Speleology.

## List of participants

The official number of registrants for the Congress was 161, representing attendance from 14 states of Mexico, as follows in alphabetical order: *Baja California, Campeche, Chiapas, Coahuila, Guerrero, Jalisco, Mexico City, Morelia, Nuevo León, Querétaro, Quintana Roo, San Luis Potosí, Sonora, and Yucatán.*

Also, nine countries, beside Mexico, joined the Congress: *Belgium, Brazil, France, Italy, Japan, Portugal, Puerto Rico, United States, and Uruguay.*

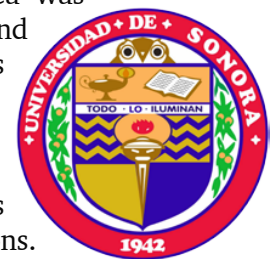
## Congress Venue and Facilities

The CNME 2019 was held at the Centre of Arts of the University of Sonora in the city of Hermosillo, which incorporates quality spaces for conference facilities. The Centre is located inside the University and includes spaces, technological infrastructure and logistical capacity to manage conferences, congresses, seminars, art and products exhibitions. These spaces also included a spacious separate room which was used by UMAE and G-PES Organizing Committee for their meetings.

The stage was equipped with the best quality sound, controlled by a sound engineer at the backstage. Two digital screens were used to support presentations, videos and photographs of the speakers. The Centre of Arts was divided in two parts: the right side was used for all the presentations, while the left side was used for the poster session, photography and map competition presentations.

The registration desk was located at the pre-function area, where attendees were able to register, request general information and acquire official merchandise of the congress.

Also, the pre-function area was used by the artists Victor Cruz and Denisse Díaz to exhibit their arts and paintings. Outside the Centre of the Arts, five circuits were installed for the Speleo Games competition and the hall was used by different vendor exhibitions.



© <http://www.uson.mx>

View of the University of Sonora, the venue of the CNME 2019, and its official logo.

Two books launches and a cultural event was held in a restaurant called Está Cabral Restaurarte, a place with a roof of stars and one of the most representative cultural forums of northwestern Mexico and one of the local sponsors.

## Congress Program

The full program included main conferences, lectures, poster sessions, workshops, books release, art exhibitions, social events, field excursions and several competitions over the four days. Details of each activities are described below.

## Program – Main Conferences

Ten guest speakers participated at the 14<sup>th</sup> National Mexican Congress of Speleology. France, Puerto Rico, USA and Mexico were the countries invited to talk about different aspects of speleology.

All of them shared with the attendees their contributions and experience of caving around the world and Mexico, as follows:

**George Veni (USA)** - *Cave Research in Mexico: A Proposal for partnerships with the US National Cave and Karst Research Institute (NCKRI).*

**Laura Rosales Lagarde (Mexico)** - *Las Cuevas como una Ventana al Pasado.*

**Philippe Crochet & Annie Guiraud (France)** - *Photographing Caves.*

**Luis Manuel Mejía Ortiz (Mexico)** - *Las Cuevas Anquihalinas en México: Ecología, Diversidad y Especializaciones.*

**Peter Sprouse (USA)** - *Las Cuevas de Solidaridad, Quintana Roo, México.*

**Begoña Iñarritu Castro (Mexico)** - *Inquilinos Alados de las Cuevas.*

**Júpiter Martínez Ramírez (Mexico)** - *Habitantes*



George Veni (USA), President of the International Union of Speleology (UIS), talking about “*Cave Research in Mexico: A Proposal for partnerships with the US National Cave and Karst Research Institute*”.

*Prehispánicos en las Cuevas de la Sierra Madre Occidental de Sonora: Casas en Acantilado.*

**Fernando Hernández (Mexico)** - *Nuevas Conexiones y Fronteras en la Exploración e Investigación del Sistema Huautla, Oaxaca, Mexico.*

**Efraín Mercado Vázquez (Puerto Rico)** - *19S, Levantando a México.*

## Program - Conference and Poster Session

A total of 25 talks were presented on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the Centre of Arts, covering different aspects of caving. Each talk lasted approximately 15 minutes and five minutes were given for questions from the audience. Several associations affiliated to UMAE presented their research, discoveries or explorations around Mexico. Also, three talks were presented by international groups from Portugal, Brazil and Puerto Rico. The poster session was held on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at the same Centre with a duration of 2 hours. The poster session was planned for attendees to interact personally with the authors. A total of 13 posters were presented.

## Program – Workshops

A total of nine workshops were accepted, however, one of them canceled days prior to the start of the Congress. Despite the eight options proposed, only five workshops participated in the event.

The workshops were focused on different aspects. Two of them were dedicated to cave survey. Peter Sprouse of USA and Adrián Miguel-Nieto of Mexico City taught on subjects about DistoX2 calibration and how to create acceptable sketches, respectively. On the other hand, Luis M. Mejía of Quintana



Efraín Mercado (Puerto Rico), President of the Federación Espeleológica de America Latina y del Caribe (FEALC, in Spanish), and UIS Vice-President of Operations talking about “*19S Levantando a México, the 2017 earthquake and its anonymous heroes*”.

Roo, Mexico, shared his knowledge and experience about cave fauna, focusing on adaptation and evolution aspects. Additionally, ten attendees participated with Alan Nieves of Mexico City and learned how to use SIG's tools for speleological exploration and data management. Furthermore, Philippe Crochet and Annie Guiraud of France introduced six attendees to subterranean photography. This workshop was the only one with a practice session inside "Cueva de la Mariana" located approximately 60 km from Hermosillo, where they practiced and took some pictures with the guide.

### Program – Photo and Art Exhibition

The photo exhibition was composed with the photographic material of five authors. Philippe Crochet and Annie Guiraud of France and Katsuji Yoshida of Japan were our international guests. Both Philippe and Annie shared their results of exploring caves around the world, consisting of beautiful photos of different caves and speleothems of the world. Katsuji Yoshida showed a series of pictures of caves in Laos, an expedition to a cave led by the Japan Exploration Team.

In addition, two more local authors shared their material. One of them, Sócrates Rodríguez of the Comcaac ethnic group, exhibited their traditional caves and their indigenous cosmivision. Lastly, Sergio Müller, a local talent, presented his passion of night photography and showed us the great landscapes of the Sonoran Desert.

The photo exhibition showed the pictures of the attendees who participate at the contest. The judges were Philippe Crochet, Annie Guiraud and Sergio Müller. The judges awarded Víctor Cruz and the popular choice was Claudio Cruz. Both pictures were caves of Veracruz, Mexico. The winners received

an award with products from our sponsor, Gle Noble, COFETUR and the Ecology and Conservation Lab of Terrestrial Vertebrate of UNAM.

For the art exhibition, we displayed the paintings of Victor Cruz and the engravings of Denisse Díaz. Victor Cruz shared his project of painting caves in Mexico which started in 2007 and Denisse Díaz showed her engravings about cave fauna in Sonora, Mexico.

### Program – Social

A social program was organized for attendees during the Congress. The first day of the Congress concluded with a traditional dance of the Yaqui ethnic group. The ritual dance celebrated by the natives showed the attendees a dramatization of the hunting of the deer, cultural heroes of these towns, by the paskolas (hunters). A special night in Está Cabral Restaurarte on February 2, 2019 attended by over 200 congress participants. Several activities were planned, such as the presentation of two books "Las Cavernas de la Sierra Gorda" by Carlos Lazcano and "Mitos y Cavernas de Yucatán" by Carlos Evia. In addition, two artistic performers by Zara Monrroy and Sócrates Rodríguez of Comcaac ethnic group and the saxophonist Pavel López.

### Program – Congress Field Trips

The CNME 2019 offered some excursions visiting caves around Hermosillo and touristic zones of Sonora. Due to insufficient bookings, just two trips to caves were undertaken. The host group took the attendees to "Cueva de la Mariana" and "Cerro Blanco". The first one, located in San Miguel de Horcasitas and the second, in Moctezuma. Both options used transportation by bus sponsored by the University of



Poster sessions about different aspects of caving exploration or science by several associations affiliated to UMAE and international cavers.



CUEVA DE LA MARIANA - Workshop result of Philippe Crochet and Annie Guiraud by one of the six attendees to subterranean photography.

Sonora. The guides were members of G-PES.

### Conclusion

Our group was honored to be the hosts, for the first time, of the 14<sup>th</sup> National Mexican Congress of Speleology, CNME 2019. The event was a challenge from the beginning as Sonora is an unknown place for many attendees, however, we were glad to represent our state and its underground landscape. We had four days of sharing, learning and exploring caves of Mexico with cavers from different parts of Mexico and the world.

Without a doubt, the 14<sup>th</sup> National Mexican Congress of Speleology organized by the Mexican Union of Speleological Associations and hosted by the Grupo Pionero Espeleológico de Sonora was a complete success and will be surely, one of the most remem-

bered congresses. We hope this effort provides the opportunity for new groups to take the lead and host the next congress in new places to discover and protect unknown caves of Mexico.

To conclude, we would like to thank our sponsors, especially to the International Union of Speleology (UIS), the Federación Espeleológica de America Latina y del Caribe (FEALC, in Spanish), the National Speleological Society (NSS), the Association for Mexican Cave Studies (AMCS), the Comisión del Fomento al Turismo del Estado de Sonora (COFETUR, in Spanish), the Oficina de Convenciones y Visitantes de Hermosillo (OCV, in Spanish), Universidad de Sonora, Universidad Estatal de Sonora and UNAM.



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*Group of the field trip to Cueva de la Mariana, a karstic cave of the Sonoran Desert.*

*Group of the field trip to Cerro Blanco, a lava tube of the Sonoran Desert.*



© 14<sup>th</sup> CNME 2019

*Attendees to the 14<sup>th</sup> National Mexican Congress of Speleology from several parts of Mexico and the world.*





## CONFERENCE REPORT

# MAN AND KARST 2019

## International Scientific Conference

By Ferdinando Didonna (Italy and Costa Rica)  
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### Abstract

**Man and Karst 2019 Karst and Speleology Conference** contributed to the knowledge, enhancement and protection of the karst landscape and its ecosystem and historical-anthropological resources as a whole. The conference itself was a resource for the optimal purpose for scientific research at the service and for the benefit of the whole community. The main features of the conference and key notes are presented.

From 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019 in the evocative quarters of the castle of Donnafugata in Ragusa, Sicily, Italy, the International Scientific Conference “**Man and Karst 2019**” was held with the presence of over 100 participants, including academics, researchers and speleologists, coming from different parts of the world.

The activity was brilliantly organized by CIRS - Ibleo Speleo-Hydrogeological Research Center of Ragusa, with the sponsorship of the UNESCO Chair on Karst Education, of the Karst Commission of the International Union of Hydrogeologists, of the Municipality of Ragusa, and in co-participation with the Regional Order of Geologists of Sicily, of the Municipal Consortium of Ragusa and of the Regional Museum



Donnafugata Castle, the venue of the conference.

Pole for the cultural sites of Ragusa and of various universities, both Italian and foreign.

This event, which is held every year in different countries of the Mediterranean area, on the mandate of an International committee set up for the purpose, is one of the most qualified international scientific events in the field of karstic research.

The international meeting was an opportunity for debating, sharing and discussion on different topics divided into 6 sessions, such as karst geomorphology, geology in relation to the risks associated with the presence of hypogean cavities, karst hydrogeology and water protection, the exploitation and use of karst geosites, and in particular, speleological activity and cave conservation was presided over by Ferdinando Didonna of the Società Speleologica Italiana (SSI) and Pietro Di Stefano of the University of Palermo. The archaeological and paleontological aspects in karst environments were presided by Rosario Ruggieri of the IAH-Karst Commission and Jim La-Moreaux of Springer.



Pantalica Nature Reserve, UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Various themes of the relationship between man and karst were addressed and in particular the relationships between the karst territories and the communities that live there. Special regard was given to the problem of safeguarding the karst values present, of their possible use with minimal impact in terms of tourism, of the enhancement of the added cultural and/or landscape aspects, and last but not least, the new techniques and studies of protection and monitoring of the impacts that certain anthropic, unregulated activities can have on the quality of karst waters used for human consumption.

Ferdinando Didonna presented the evolution of the project “**Clean up the Dark**” with an overview of the initiatives for cleaning and protecting the caves in Europe from the 1960s to today. The study, carried out with Francesco Maurano of the SSI, Sarah Linders speleologist Belgian activist, and Bärbel Vogel, President of the German Speleological Federation and member of the Cave Protection Commission of the Speleological Federation Europe (FSE), which is part of the European movement for the creation of a common platform for cleaning actions and data collection on the conservation status of caves and karst in Europe.

To complete the scientific sessions, the participants had the opportunity to learn about some significant



FERDINANDO DIDONNA

*Anapo Nature Reserve, UNESCO World Heritage Site.*

landscapes of the Sicilian territory through the participation in the series of excursions included in the extensive program of activities. In this regard, the offer of excursions ranged from the realities of industrial archaeology of the asphalt mines of Tabuna and the Latomie of Ragusa, symbols of an undisputed geo-mining history of Sicily, to immersion in the karst landscape of the Natural Reserve of Pantalica and dell’Anapo (UNESCO World Heritage Site), Grotta Monello (Natural Reserve), Grotta Chiusazza, outcrops of selenitic chalk along the Siculiana coastal strip, and Scala dei Turchi with a visit to the Archaeological Park of the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento. Finally, a trek on the peaks of Mount Etna crowned the rich program of excursions.

The Man and Karst 2019 conference was certainly an opportunity to make a contribution to the enhancement and preservation of the karst landscape with its ecosystem and historical-anthropological resources as a whole, but also as a functional and optimal contribution to the development of scientific research applied to speleology, and not restricted to a few users but put to service for the benefit of the entire community.

### Excursions

- Tabuna Asphalt Mine and Cava Gonfalone Limestone Mine.
- Valle dell’Anapo - Pantalica excursion (UNESCO Heritage Site).
- Monello Cave (Natural Reserve) and Chiusazza Cave.
- Realmonte Mine, Scala dei Turchi, Agrigento Archaeological Park.
- Valle del Bove and Lava Tube Cave in the Mount Etna Volcano.



FERDINANDO DIDONNA

*Asphalt mines of Tabuna.*



CLEANING THE NATURE

# TRASHBONDING & GUARDIANS OF THE EARTH

The biggest positive story of uniting nations to preserve nature, led by the caving community

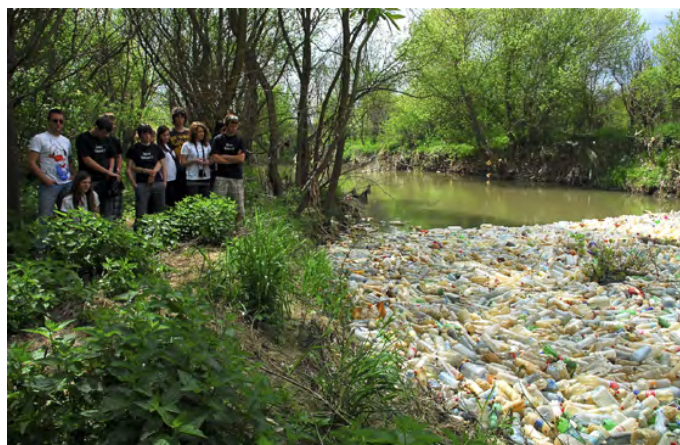
By Bogdan Kladnik - Bogdi (Slovenia)  
[bogdan@kladnik.net](mailto:bogdan@kladnik.net)

*"An invasion of armies can be resisted, but not an idea whose time has come."*  
(Victor Hugo)

The entire Guardians of the Earth idea ([www.guardians-earth.org](http://www.guardians-earth.org)) has been dedicated to two main goals: to connect people of all continents, races, and religions – pretty much everyone not accepting our interference with nature – to protect waters of the world, and to encourage the youth to take care for nature and their destiny into their hands.

I have been talking and writing about protecting waters and nature for years. And I will continue to do so because it is easy to understand. But maybe now, when I already have your attention – I hope I do – is a good time to talk about the true meaning of ‘protecting nature’. To ask ourselves if Earth really needs our protection?

I think not, as crazy as it sounds. The Earth will survive—with or without us. It always has, through billions of years. Civilizations were wiped out, animal species were wiped out, but nature always survived—



**April 2010** - The ‘Young Guardians’ team from Slovenia by the river ‘Južna Morava’ in Serbia.

PHOTOS BY  
Bogdan Kladnik



and new animal species evolved. And they will continue to do so—with or without us. It’s up to us. The time to do as much as we can is now, it is together—and it is here. On Earth and not on Mars.

But first let’s take a quick look back into the history of the Guardians. I first started to protect nature – or at least that’s what I thought I was doing back then – in 1985. Since then I have tried to unite photographers and writers, NGO’s and other ‘ecological’ organisations in the Balkans to join forces and work together. The same with the best martial artists in the world, and the same with youth in eleven different countries.

In 2008 I left all my “normal” life, publishing work and financial security behind and spent the following nine years traveling around the world. Years of driving, spreading awareness, making plans and presentations, mostly sleeping on the back seat of a small car.



**April 2019** - The Guardians team (Bogdan Kladnik far right, the rest are Czech cavers).



**Škocjan Caves, Slovenia, September 2017**  
*Bogdan Kladnik giving last-minute instructions to the assembled group before cleanup begins.*

With little or no success, with more downs than ups, in 2017 I nearly decided, disappointed and tired, to raise the white flag, but then I met a group of Czech cavers in the Škocjan caves, Slovenia. When I observed the friendship and energy flowing in their group, it struck me like lightning. That's it—the outdoor enthusiasts! All these years, I was forgetting my own tribe—the caving community. The outdoor sports where there is little or no egoism, where friendship, team work and honoring nature is still a virtue.

The idea of **Trashbonding** – an uplifting outdoor activity which unites nations to preserve nature – was born that same day.

Two months later I organised together with the managing team of Škocjan caves the biggest meeting and cleanup action of outdoor enthusiasts in Europe. In an incredible display of caving solidarity, 190 cavers and wilderness adventurers from nine different countries gathered in Slovenia to participate in a cleanup of the Škocjan Caves, reflecting one of the



**Škocjan Caves, Slovenia, September 2017** - *Removing trash from the terminal siphon in the Martel Chamber.*  
**Photo: Borut Lozej**

most pervasive characteristics of the caving community: a genuine concern for safeguarding the unique splendor and ecological integrity of underground environments.

The Škocjan caves cleanup was a big success. It gave me new strength, new ideas and I could move to the next big step—China.

I first came to Songshan mountains in China in 2012 together with my son Pan to make the first official book about the world-renowned Shaolin temple.

It took me the next seven years and ten trips to China to establish necessary contacts and gain the trust of Chinese people. I walked through the whole mountain range, through almost all canyons and gorges, and made a detailed cleanup plan of the sacred Songshan mountains. We fulfilled it in the next three cleaning actions in 2018 and 2019, together with my outdoor friends from Europe, 52 Chinese cavers, volunteers from Zhengzhou, Shaolin Combat school and the Chinese tourist organisation CTS.



**November 2018 and March 2019** - *Cleanup actions at the Songshan Mountains, China.*

Water connects all people on Earth. To preserve this wonderful treasure, we have to unite—and the best way to understand the importance of preserving nature is to get involved. Guardians of the Earth and our friends in China are now organising yet the fourth international cleanup action at the sacred Songshan UNESCO Global Geopark in March 2020—the biggest and the only one of its kind in the world.

We are setting up a model of international cooperation as the basis for future similar actions across the globe and are determined to organise them twice per year.

It may look crazy at first, but choosing Škocjan Caves in Slovenia and Dengfeng in China as the places of ‘gathering of nations’ is no coincidence. Nothing ever is.

Speaking about coincidences: The first joint cleanup action of caving community in Europe, which was organised in Škocjan caves in September 2017 in only one month, brought together people from almost the same countries as pilgrimages 3,000 years ago!

The Škocjan caves and Dengfeng are both places of exceptional natural beauty, both are enlisted on the UNESCO World Heritage site, and both are places of great energy. From time immemorial, people have been attracted to both of them.

Three millennia ago, the magnificent entrances to the underworld gave Škocjan a great symbolic religious power and transformed it into a cult centre without rival in the territory of Slovenia and in a big part of today’s Europe.

The situation was quite similar in the sacred Songshan mountains. Throughout China’s history, sacred mountains were places of pilgrimage, learning and coexistence with nature. Taoist and Buddhist monasteries were commonly built in such places to offer refuge to wildlife, present a model of sustainable forestry and agriculture to local communities, and teach harmonious relationship with nature. The Dengfeng area is even considered as the spiritual ‘Centre of Heaven and Earth’ in the ancient Chinese literature.

To set up an example of international cooperation and make a transformation in our minds and actions, we couldn’t have found more appropriate places. I believe that from here we can disseminate them to the whole world.



Albania (left), Island Pag in Croatia (right).

Therefore, dear readers, my dear friends. I heartfully invite you to join us on this amazing journey - a journey to a more peaceful, friendly and sustainable world.

It is not absolutely necessary that you join us. But it is inevitable that eventually you, too, will become a **Guardian of the Earth**.

## Next Action

**Location:** Songshan mountains, Dengfeng city, Henan province, China

**Date:** 29.3 - 4.4. 2020 (+ 1,5 days flying to China, 1 day flying back).

**Organisers:** Guardians of the Earth (speleoclubs Križna Cave (Slovenia), Planivy (Czech Republic), Papp Ferenc (Hungary), and Zhongyuan Adventure Rescue Team (China).

**Support:** Shaolin Combat school, City of Dengfeng, Cave Rescue China, Asian Union of Speleology, Chinese Committee on Speleology, Chinese Geological Society, Union Internationale de Spéléologie, and European Speleological Federation.

**Participants:** Europe/world: 30 countries (team of five from each country); China: 50-150 cavers, Shaolin disciples, volunteers from Dengfeng and Zhengzhou.

### Goals:

1. to finish cleaning the Songshan mountains, canyons and Shaolin Temple valley.
2. to establish a “no trash” tourist zone.
3. to set up an example of international cooperation.
4. to make a film, book and exhibition about the action and spread awareness.
5. to involve, motivate and educate youth.
6. to promote our caving community worldwide.
7. to build a model for international cleanup actions and put it as a blueprint/open source on our website.

**Website:** [www.guardians-earth.org](http://www.guardians-earth.org)

**Contact:** Bogdan Kladnik ([bogdan@kladnik.net](mailto:bogdan@kladnik.net))

**First circular:** January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Available on website or contact BK.

**Promotion:** Indiegogo crowdfunding project for Trash-bonding (starting January 24<sup>th</sup>).

## The last five cleanup actions of our caving community

### 1. Slovenia 1

**Date:** September 23<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**Location:** Škocjan Caves Park, Slovenia.

**Organisers:** Guardians of the Earth, Škocjan Caves Park

**Participants:** 190 cavers and outdoor enthusiasts from 9 countries: Slovenia, Italy, Croatia, Serbia, Hungary, Slovakia, Brasil, Romania, and Czech Republic.

**Goal:** to clean for the first time the Hanke channel and Martel chamber 3 km inside to the last siphon, and the surroundings of Škocjan caves.

**Effect:** 200 sacks of trash.



### 2. China 1

**Date:** November 2-7<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

**Location:** Songshan Scenic spot, Dengfeng, China.

**Organisers:** Guardians of the Earth, Cave Rescue China.

**Participants:** 2 cavers from Slovenia, 11 cavers from China.

**Goal:** to clean the vertical walls of Songshan mountains and one canyon.

**Effect:** 25 sacks of trash.

### 3. China 2

**Date:** March 3-10<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**Location:** Songshan Scenic spot, Dengfeng, China.

**Organisers:** Guardians of the Earth, Cave Rescue China.

**Participants:** 2 cavers from Slovenia, 2 canyoneers from Austria, 52 cavers from China .

**Goal:** to clean the vertical walls of Songshan mountains, two canyons and one dry valley.

**Effect:** 40 sacks of trash.



### 4. Czech Republic

**Date:** March 23<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**Location:** Tomaškov lom, Czech Republic.

**Organisers:** Speleoclub Drienka (CZ), Guardians of the Earth.

**Participants:** 22 cavers from CZ, 1 caver from Slovenia, 7 children, 2 dogs.

**Goal:** to clean an abandoned quarry in the Moravian Karst.

**Effect:** 53 sacks of trash.

### 5. Slovenia 2

**Date:** April 18-21<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**Location:** Kačna cave, Slovenia.

**Organisers:** Speleoclubs: Planivy (CZ), Papp Ferenc (HU), Križna Cave (SI), Divača (SI).

**Participants:** 35 cavers from Slovenia, Hungary and Czech Republic.

**Goal:** to clean Kačna cave 250 meters below the surface.

**Effect:** 20 sacks of trash.



## FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN



Dear cavers, friends and nature lovers from all over the world,

The recent and ongoing bushfires have severely damaged many cave areas across Australia. Your donation to the Australian Speleological Federation will help restore cave ecosystems.

Donate here [www.gofundme.com/f/cave-landscape-bushfire-rehabilitation-appeal](http://www.gofundme.com/f/cave-landscape-bushfire-rehabilitation-appeal) or by bank transfer to the Karst Conservation Fund through the following information:

Swift Code	ASLLAU2C
BSB	641800
Account number	200812379
Account name	Karst Conservation Fund
Institution name	IMB LTD
Institution Address	253-259 Crown St Wollongong NSW Australia (postcode) 2500

### KNOWN IMPACTED CAVE AREAS:

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA:** Yanchep (north of Perth).

#### NEW SOUTH WALES:

**Jenolan Caves:** Most of the above-karst forested areas and extensive areas of the World Heritage Area around Jenolan Caves. Caves House was saved by the efforts of fire crews. Two staff houses and the cavers cottage as well as the fire brigade shed were all destroyed.

**Yarrangobilly Caves:** Most of the vegetation above the karst and caves has been severely burnt.

Amazingly, the heritage Caves House was saved by six people.

**Wombeyan Caves:** All vegetation burnt but visitor facilities appear to have been saved.

**Kempsey:** Willi Willi Maternity Bat Cave and associated rainforest.

**Bungonia:** Extensive damage to forest in the caves area.

Most remote karst areas in NSW have been severely burnt.

#### VICTORIA:

Buchan Caves Reserve, and surrounding cave reserves are all extensively burnt. Most public facilities in the Buchan Caves Reserve have been destroyed. Numerous buildings in Buchan village have been destroyed.

Budj Bim (Mt Eccles National Park) World Heritage Area (cultural site).

#### SOUTH AUSTRALIA:

Kelly Hill Caves and many areas on Kangaroo Island.

These are only some of the areas known to be impacted—we anticipate many more caves have been or will be affected.

### Let's join together to make a difference!

Funds raised will go directly towards:

- Projects aimed at cleaning and restoring caves and karst areas
- Immediate on ground works to cave affected areas

- Cave entrance stabilisation, fencing and stairway replacements (that are not covered by insurance)
- Rehabilitating vegetation in cave landscapes
- Rehabilitating of critical habitats for bat and cave fauna populations
- Research projects to assess long term bushfire impact on fauna and cave environments
- Bat population surveys post-fire
- Replacement of entrance identification cave tags where needed.

The Australian Speleological Federation (ASF) is an Environmental Organisation, with the primary objective to protect the cave and karst environments

of Australia.

As the national body in Australia, ASF represents 22 caving clubs with over 800 members and represents Australia on the International Union of Speleology (UIS). The ASF is registered as an Environmental Organisation by the Department of Environment and Energy, Canberra.

To receive a tax deduction receipt please email: [asf.karstfund.info@gmail.com](mailto:asf.karstfund.info@gmail.com)

Our website: [www.caves.org.au/conservation/karst-conservation-fund](http://www.caves.org.au/conservation/karst-conservation-fund)

Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/asfcavers/>.

Thank you so much for your kind support.



BRETT JACKSON



© WWW.ANCIENT-ORIGINS.NET

*Bushfire burning around the Jenolan Caves (above). Jenolan Caves House and facilities (right) were saved, although four structures, including the local fire service station, were lost.*



MATTHEW ABBOTT - for The New York Times

**Burning home in Lake Conjola in New South Wales.** More than one billion mammals, birds, and reptiles across eastern Australia are estimated to have been affected by the current fire catastrophe.

*In the Gaspers Mountain, fire has already burnt through almost 400,000 hectares in multiple directions.*



© GENA DRAY - NSW Rural Fire Service member



## HOMAGE

# THE MASSEY MEDAL

## Dr. Derek Ford (Canada), UIS Past President, honored by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society

By Nivaldo Colzato

UIS Adjunct Secretary/Editor of the UIS Bulletin  
[nivaldo@karinaetiquetas.com.br](mailto:nivaldo@karinaetiquetas.com.br)

### Sources:

Royal Canadian Geographical Society  
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OrilliaMatters - online news and information site  
<https://www.orilliamatters.com/local-news/massey-medal-a-considerable-honour-for-orillia-man-1896688>

**O**n November 21, 2019, in Alex Trebek Theatre, Ottawa, Canada, the UIS Past President Derek Ford was recognized by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS) with the Massey Medal for his influential career as a geologist and geographer.

Professor, scientist, researcher, author and consultant, Dr. Ford is credited with establishing major scientific principles of cave and karst development and the foundation of karstology. For his more than sixty years of dedication and achievement in this field, he is acknowledged as one of the most renowned and respected cave scientists in the world.

Throughout his career, Dr. Ford has expanded the frontiers of karst science and published a rich body of research furthering the understanding of speleogenesis, karst geomorphology, geochronology, paleokarst, paleoclimate, and other karst processes and phenomena.

Professor Emeritus of Geography and Earth Sciences at McMaster University, Canada, his global influence is predicated on his rigorous and voluminous research, his mentoring of graduate students, and his

### THE MASSEY MEDAL

Established in 1959 by the Massey Foundation, the Massey Medal is awarded annually by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. Its purpose is to recognize outstanding career achievement in the exploration, development or description of the geography of Canada.

For more information, please visit:

[http://www.rcgs.org/awards/massey\\_medal/](http://www.rcgs.org/awards/massey_medal/)



NATHAN TAYLOR/ORILLIAMATTERS

Derek Ford and his Massey Medal.

advocacy for various UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Canada.

Before the Massey Medal he had already received twenty eight academic honours and awards from fourteen different nations. In 1986, the RCGS itself awarded Dr. Ford the Gold Medal. Through the Massey Medal, the Society recognizes his far-reaching and seminal contributions to the field of karstology and its application in Canada.

"I've seen a great deal of Canada," he said recently from his home office, sitting at a desk next to a shelf packed with books on karst. "I was the person you involved if you had caves or karsts at your site," he said. When asked where his interest in geology came from, Ford said, "The thrill of adventure."

When studying caves, "I got hooked, I was really fascinated." Receiving the Massey Medal "is a considerable honour," he said. "I'm quite chuffed. It elevates your status among your peers, but I'm old now and I don't give a damn about that anymore," he completed with a laugh. "It's nice to have it."

As a UIS Bureau Member, Derek Ford was Adjunct Secretary 1977-1981, Vice-President 1981-1986, and President 1986-1989.

Congratulations, Derek. The UIS and the international speleological community are proud of you.





Union Internationale  
de Spéléologie  
www.uis-speleo.org

# MINUTES UIS ANNUAL BUREAU MEETING

September 11-12, 2019 - Bohol (Philippines)

By Fadi H. NADER (Secretary General) - [secretary@uis-speleo.org](mailto:secretary@uis-speleo.org)

## SESSION 1

**Wednesday September 11, 2019  
at 09h00 (local time)**

### ATTENDANCE

**President:** *George VENI*  
**Vice-President of Administration:** *Zdeněk MOTYČKA*  
**Vice-President of Operations:** *Efrain MERCADO*  
**Secretary General:** *Fadi H. NADER*  
(attendance via Skype)

**Treasurer:** *Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA*

#### Adjunct Secretaries:

*Bernard CHIROL*  
*Nivaldo COLZATO*  
*Mladen GARAŠIĆ*  
*Satoshi GOTO*  
*Gyula HEGEDUS*  
*Tim MOULDS*  
*Bärbel VOGEL (attendance via Skype)*

#### Past-Presidents:

*Andy EAVIS*

#### Guests:

*Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS* - President, UIS Commission of Karst and Cave Protection  
*Phil ROWSELL*

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

George VENI thanked all participants for coming to Bohol (Philippines). He presented the apologies of Fadi NADER and Bärbel VOGEL for not attending this annual UIS Bureau meeting.

Since the Secretary General (Fadi NADER) was not present at the meeting in Bohol, George VENI asked for assigning a recording secretary. Tim MOULDS volunteered.

Then, the Bureau meeting costs and dinner time were discussed and approved unanimously.

George VENI proposed to approve the meeting agenda. Zdenek MOTYČKA seconded, and the agenda was approved unanimously.

**DECISION 1: The Agenda items of the Meeting were approved by the present Bureau members.**

### 2) Approval of Minutes of Regular Bureau Meeting of 2018 (Ebensee, Austria)

After review, George Veni proposed to approve the minutes of the previous annual meeting. Tim Moulds seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**DECISION 2: The minutes of the 2018 annual meeting were approved by the UIS Bureau.**

### 3) Review Action Items and Decisions of previous UIS Bureau Meeting (2018) – Decisions to be made on follow up un-accomplished actions

All action items are completed.

### 4) ICS 2021 (ICS Organizing Committee FFS)

#### a. UPDATES – Status (after UIS delegation visit in July 2019: N. Zupan Hajna, Z. Motyčka, F. Nader, B. Chirol)

Meeting in Ardeche to prepare the scientific program was attended by Nadja, Fadi, and Zdenek in July. They reported the availability of large auditoriums, small rooms, dormitories, and other things needed for a successful congress. In general, everything seems well organised.

The dormitory rooms have two bedrooms and a small kitchenette and bathroom. The organizers suggested a price of 25 euros per person per night. They encourage everyone to stay in the dormitories because the campground is small. They have other areas for mobile homes. They also have couples dormitories. Hotels are in walking distance, and many other are accessible by tram. The tram stops in the center of the university campus.

**FINANCES** – Currently the expected registration prices are 129 euros for early registration and 175 euros for on-site registration. Registration includes everything apart from the Wednesday's, pre-congress and post-congress excursions. The welcome party and reception are included. Printed proceedings will be extra. Memory stick with proceedings will be included. Entertainment will be in the speleo bar every night. Caving competitions and other usual events are planned. They are expecting 2000 participants and the capacity of the site is around 3000 people.

UIS meeting and other requirements needs to be told to the organisers. Dorm accommodation to be provided to the UIS Bureau. Other accommodation options to be paid for by individuals if other than dorm required.

Promotion has been limited but a professional media communication person will be hired by end of 2019. Production of a promotional video is very good and needed for introducing the conference, in addition to a PowerPoint presentation that can also be shown in each country. The 1<sup>st</sup> circular is expected to be completed imminently.

**b. PROGRESS – Way Forward**

- i. Technical program (involving UIS Commissions)
- ii. Spelemedia
- iii. Excursions
- iv. Budget

**c. ISCA AT THE ICS - (G. Veni)**

ISCA will be present at the ICS Lyon and would like to meet with UIS during the congress. An estimated 5-6 show caves will be featured during the ICS. The ISCA board will also like to have a meeting of its own during the congress, and George has offered to schedule a time for them to use the UIS Bureau room if a separate room cannot be found.

**Action 1: George Veni to schedule a time for ISCA board to meet in the UIS Bureau room or alternate room during the ICS 2021.**

**5) UIS Media**

**a. WEBSITE (E. Mercado)**

IYCK information is on a test website currently but will be moved to the main site soon (EM/Jasmina). All digital material will be made available.

**i. Translation option (M. Garasic, N. Colzato)**

Google translation will be used (E. Mercado/N. Colzato/M. Garašić).

**b. FACEBOOK PAGE (2004 members)**

Working well.

**c. UIS BULLETIN (N. Colzato)**

Needs more articles as only one expedition report was received for the last issue. Contributions from member countries and commissions needed, as well as PSS and UMAE conference reports for the bulletin.

A link to the bulletin should be added to the UIS Facebook page.

**Action 2: Fadi Nader to add link to the UIS Bulletin from the UIS Facebook page.**

Regular links to the UIS website also provided.

Use of other social media such as Instagram, Twitter, WeChat, etc. for different countries and age groups – *Satoshi Goto*

**Action 3: Satoshi Goto to coordinate/prepare use of new social media accounts in different countries/regions to promote the UIS.**

**d. UIS HISTORY VIDEO (M. Garašić, G. Veni)**

Use free music available online that has been credited in the video. ZM will provide a list of sites/music that may be suitable for use on the video. Baerbel arranged for Uwe Krueger to help Boris Watz if he needs help.

**Action 4: Zdenek Motyčka to provide a list of sites/music that may be suitable for use on the video.**

**6) UIS Bureau internal functioning (F. Nader/G. Veni)**

**a. INFORMATION POLICY INSIDE THE BUREAU (email, deadlines, skype)**

Generally working well

**b. REPORTING OF UIS BUREAU MEMBERS**

**c. SKYPE MEETINGS**

No Skype meetings in the past year. IYCK has had some skype meetings.

**7) UIS Relationships with Regional Organization and Countries (F. Nader/G. Veni)**

**a. MOU between UIS and the Karst Research Institute (N. Zupan-Hajna).**

**b. Refer to Excel document.**

**c. FEALC request to become a UIS Associated Speleological Organization (E. Mercado) – FEALC has a longer and more specific code of ethics. FEALC will follow their code of ethics unless the UIS code is better. It was accepted that George would read the FEALC code of ethics in English during the night and provide his recommendation the next day for discussion.**

**d. Associated Speleological Organisation for Asian Union of Speleology (G. Veni) – If not already approved Eko Haryono will send a letter requesting association.**

**e. Member countries: Kirgizstan (S. Goto)**

**f. George will contact Alexey Dudashvilli to discuss expectations and issues with his speleological expeditions.**

**ACTION 5: George Veni will contact Alexey Dudashvili to discuss expectations and issues with his speleological expeditions.**

### 8) ISCA News (G. Veni)

Next congress in 2022 in San Antonio, Texas, USA. GV will likely attend.

### 9) Finance Update (N. Zupan Hajna)

#### UIS ACCOUNT 2019 – ON 31.08.2019

##### EUR

Initial account balance 01.01.2018:  
17.855,65 (+ 20.000 deposit)

Expense: 3.836,71

Income: 3.020 + 20.000 deposit back

Account balance 31.08.2019: 37.333,53 EUR

##### USD

Initial account balance 01.01.2019:  
15.756,14 (+35.000 deposit)

Expense: 1.500

Income: 157,96 + 35.000 deposit back

Account balance 31.08.2019: 49.415,48 USD

#### PAYMENTS 2019

##### Bank

- Bank account fees = 5,00 EUR/month (8 x 5 = 40 EUR)
- Payment of fees for money transfers or incomes in Europe = 0,12 EUR/transfer, cash withdrawals = 0.1 % - min 0,5 EUR
- Out of Europe = 12 EUR/transfer (connected banks)

320,00	Accountant for taxing ( I. Gnezda)
510,00	ICSU membership
51,00	Books posting to Brazil

#### Commissions

215,71	HydroKarst web hosting (Kopchinsky/Klimchouk)
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#### Expeditions

1.640,00	Cheve expedition 2019
600,00	Laumann, Brazil expedition 2019
600,00	Cuba Expedition 2019 (was returned!)

#### Conferences

200,00	Sardinia Speleo ME
300,00	Eurospeleo Forum 2019 - Bulgaria

##### USD

1.500	Transkarst, Philippines 2019
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##### Income EUR

Bank interests from 20.000 EUR deposit/year = 20,05 EUR

#### Member fees = 3.000 EUR

480,00	Italy
240,00	Croatia 2019
480,00	Slovenia 2018, 2019
720,00	Belgium 2018, 2019
120,00	(2 x 60) - Greece
960,00	France 2018, 2019
600,00	Refund Cuba Expedition 2019

#### Income USD

Bank interests from 35.000 USD deposit/year = 157,96 USD

#### UIS ACCOUNT 2018

##### EUR

Initial account balance: 01.01.2018: 37.600,75

Total expense: 24.655,10 (20.000 deposit)

Total income: 4.910,00

Account balance 31.12. 2018:  
17,855.65 (+ 20.000 deposit)

##### USD

Initial account balance 01.01.2018: 50.191,26

Total expense: 35.000,00 (only deposit)

Total income: 564,88

Account balance 31.12. 2018:  
15.756,14 (+ 35.000 deposit)

#### EXPENSES 2018

##### Bank

- Bank account fees = 5,00 EUR/month (12 x 5 = 60 eur)
- Payment of fees for money transfers or incomes in Europe = 0.12 eur/transfer, cash withdrawals = 0,1 % - Min 0.5 EUR
- Out of Europe: 12 EUR/transfer

##### Other

320,00	Accountant for taxes ( I. Gnezda)
500,00	ICSU membership

#### Commissions

500,00	MT commission project 2018 (Ponce)
300,00	ST commission symp (Sanatori)
500,00	GIFC 2018 (Persoi)
215,71	HydroKarst web hosting (Kopchinsky/Klimchouk)

#### Expeditions

1.360,00	Maaras Expedition 2018
300,00	EuroCongress 2018
500,00	Mexico Speleo Congress 2018

a. Proposal by Brazil to create new dues category – an extra category between 60 € and 240 € of 120 € for proposed 100-499 cavers.

Proposed NZ seconded EM. ZM abstain. All others voted for.

**DECISION 3: The UIS Bureau accepted the proposal made by Brazil creating a new membership fees category for countries having 100 to 499 registered cavers. The fees categories will be the followings:**

**A: 480 €, 2000 or more cavers**

**B: 360 €, 1000-1999 cavers**

**C: 240 €, 500-999 cavers**

**D: 120 €, 100-499 cavers**

**E: 60 €, <100 cavers**

**ACTION 6: The UIS Bureau will inform the General Assembly and seek its approval on the new fees categories.**

### 10) IYCK 2021 (*G. Veni, N. Zupan Hajna*)

**a. Present situation** - UIS should have a high level opening ceremony at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, and include the Director and important country ambassadors. To have the opening at UNESCO then UIS needs to hire the facilities and use UNESCO catering and drinks packages. Without providing catering and drinks, it is unlikely that many countries will attend and will have therefore little impact. Although it will not be a UNESCO Year, UIS may get UNESCO patronage to support the ICS and/or the opening of the IYCK. Also potentially a public event at UNESCO with movies on caves and karst conservation and talks by eminent karst scientists.

**b. Leaflet and Website** – copies of the promotional leaflet and stickers provided to UIS delegates for distribution in their countries. The website was reviewed briefly.

#### c. Way forward

**i. Program (Year)** – Opening of IYCK in Paris (UNESCO Headquarters), ICS Lyon will be the major event of the year, Closing Ceremony in Slovenia. 10+ year investment in cave and karst protection and exploration and promotion.

**ii. Budget** – at least 15.000-20.000 EUR are needed for the conference facilities at UNESCO headquarters for speeches and presentations by UNESCO chiefs in order to get delegates to attend. In the evening the auditorium would be used for movies. The cocktail reception would be used to show the importance of the year. Space is needed for an exhibition. Targeted marketing is needed to individual country ambassadors to attract them to the opening to address problems related to karst in their own countries **i.e.** groundwater contamination, quarrying, deforestation etc. Patronage from the UNESCO Director will be determine later in the year.

**iii. Production of a 3-4 minute video** (approx. 7,800 € + tax).

**iv. Closing ceremony in Slovenia** (1.000 €).

**v. Look for sponsors** from companies such as various bottled water, Petzl, Singapore cave company, Airbus etc.

**vi. Total budget** required for the IYCK - Opening UNESCO (15.000-20.000), Posters for opening 2.000 €, Movie (7.800 €), brochures and gifts for the opening (3.000 €), Closing (1,000 €), buffer (2.000 €) – **Total 30.800 – 35.800 €.**

After considerable discussion regarding the amount for UIS to initially commit to the IYCK prior to securing sponsorship it was decided unanimously to approve up to 15.000 Euro total for the IYCK Opening (~10.000 €) at UNESCO and also for the production of a 3-4 minute video by Uwe Krueger (~5.000 €). Proposed GV, seconded ZM.

Proposed NZ seconded EM. ZM abstain. All others voted for.

**DECISION 4: The UIS Bureau decided unanimously to approve up to 15.000 € total for the IYCK Opening (~10.000 €) at UNESCO and also for the production of a 3-4 minute video by Uwe Krueger (~5.000 €).**

### 11) UIS Commissions and Expeditions (*Z. Motyčka*)

**a. News and Updates** – ZM summarized all grants to commissions.

**b. Financial Requests** – no current financial requests from commissions for 2019 (except for any previously approved requests).

**c. International Expeditions support** – 3 expeditions supported in 2018, expeditions budget 3.000 € for 2019. Unanimously approved.

**DECISION 5: The UIS Bureau approved unanimously the International Expeditions Support budget for 2019 (3,000 €).**

### 12) Adjunct Secretary reports (not discussed under other agenda items)

**a. Australia and Southeast Asia (*T. Moulds*)** – National conference held in January 2019 in Tasmania and well attended with ~120 participants

**b. Education and film (*M. Garašić*)** – Films in Cyprus

**c. Speleological development in Asia (*S. Goto*)** – AUS expedition in Kalimantan to be held in Mid 2020.

**d. UN liaison (*B. Vogel*)** – Working group established with Joerg Dreybrodt representing the Germany Federation at the Europe event. At the New York event two speleologists represented the UIS in 2018, but no one was able to represent UIS/caving in the 2019 event in New York. Joerg Dreybrodt made a presentation at the event in Geneva. Side events need to be organised early.

### 13) Venue and date of the 2020 UIS Bureau Meeting (*G. Veni*)

Two invitations (Slovakia 12-15 May 2020, 9th International Workshop on Ice Caves & the 12th Scientific Conference Research, Utilization and Protection of Caves) and USA (Mammoth Cave 18-22 May 2020, UNESCOkarst 2020 meeting, UIS Bureau 16-17 May prior to conference). 1 vote for Mammoth Cave (GV), BV abstain, remaining all voted for Slovakia.

**DECISION 6: The UIS Bureau voted the acceptance of the invitation to organize its 2020 annual Bureau meeting in Slovakia in association to the 9th International Workshop on Ice Caves & the 12<sup>th</sup> Scientific Conference Research, Utilization and Protection of Caves (12-15 May, 2020).**

## SESSION 2

**Wednesday September 12, 2019  
at 11h00 (local time)**

### ATTENDANCE

**President:** *George VENI*

**Vice-President of Administration:** *Zdeněk MOTYČKA*

**Vice-President of Operations:** *Efrain MERCADO*

**Secretary General:** *Fadi H. NADER*

*(attendance via Skype)*

**Treasurer:** *Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA*

**Adjunct Secretaries:**

*Bernard CHIROL*

*Nivaldo COLZATO*

*Mladen GARAŠIĆ*

*Satoshi GOTO*

*Gyula HEGEDUS*

*Tim MOULDS*

*Bärbel VOGEL (attendance via Skype)*

**Past-Presidents:**

*Andy EAVIS*

**Guests:**

*Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS* - President, UIS Commission of Karst and Cave Protection

*Phil ROWSELL*

Morning visit to Hinagdanan Cave 8:00-11:00 am

### 14) UIS T-shirts and products (*G. Hegedús, N. Colzato, J-P Bartholeyns*)

Electronic proposal presented by Gyula HEGEDUS. Hungary has the highest VAT in the EU. G. HEGEDUS proposes to order a selection of merchandise and then sell them over several years.

Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS proposes to only sell items on pre order.

**List of products** – T shirts (men's and women's 203 g/cm<sup>2</sup> cotton - blue and white – screen printed logo), polo shirts (>220 g/cm<sup>2</sup> weight fabric embroidered logo), ties for men (Blue with white logo), scarf (same as tie) agreed as basic initial products to stock – GH to revised proposal based upon these specific products and return the proposal to the UIS bureau for future approval.

**Sales model** – sold to order by external website/provider suggested by George VENI (Lands End website is one provider).

UIS Bureau members to purchase their own UIS branded products using their own funds.

**ACTION 7: The UIS Bureau members to purchase their own UIS branded products using their own funds.**

### 15) UIS Commissions and Expeditions (*Z. Motycka*)

**a. HABE Prize (*J.-P. Bartholeyns*)**

Allotment of money for prizes every year: 250.00 Euros were approved for each prize yearly (the UIS website needs to be updated accordingly to).

Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS asked for an increase of funds up to 500.00 Euros, and if possible to carry on the funds to next year in case there is no prize allocated to a certain year.

- Vote approved assigning 250.00 Euros each year to Protection Commission for the HABE Prize. These funds will not be carried on to the next year in case there is no prize allotted for a certain year.

**b. UIS Commissions (support)**

Up to 2.000,00 EUR have been assigned to support commissions (George VENI).

- Monica PONCE asked for support to the Materials and Techniques commission.

- Speleotherapy commission asked for support – 300 Euros (request rejected by UIS Bureau but set for a vote after the Bureau Meeting).

- Karst Hydrogeology commission asked for support (request approved).

- Firm and Glacier commission request:

- UIS shall not pay for travelling expenses

- UIS Bureau needs more precise information

Funds allotted for this year. May change as funding requests fluctuate in the next years.

UIS supports commissions webpages linked to UIS Website. Mirror page from commission sites could be provided on UIS Website.

**DECISION 7: UIS Bureau will allocate 2000 Euros to support UIS Commissions, including 250 Euros for the HABE Prize.**

## 16) Adding a section to UIS Internal Guidelines for the use of Logo

Added. Only national representative organizations of member countries can use the UIS Logo. Others shall ask for permission and all must follow the user per the Visual Identity Guide. These changes were made in the UIS Internal Regulations.

## 17) News from major past speleological events

a. **International Association of Hydrogeologists Congress**, with Topic 7: *Advances in Karst and Fractured-rock Hydrogeology*, 9-14 September 2018 (Daejeon, South Korea), <http://iah2018.org/>. No report.

b. **24<sup>th</sup> International Cave Bear Symposium**, 27-30 September 2018 (Chepelare, Bulgaria), <http://icbs2018.at>. No report.

c. **Biospeleology and Theoretical & Applied Karstology Symposium**, 27-30 September 2018 (Băile Herculane, Romania), <http://www.btak.iser.ro/index.html>. No report.

d. **4<sup>th</sup> International Anchialine Ecosystems Symposium**, 1-7 October 2018 (Lanzarote, Canary Islands, Spain), [www.4isae.es](http://www.4isae.es). No report.

e. **International Workshop for Women Speleologists in Latin America**, 2-6 October 2018, (Viñales, Pinar del Río, Cuba), [presidentesec@ceniai.inf.cu](mailto:presidentesec@ceniai.inf.cu). Attended by 90 people. EM and BC present.

f. **Middle Eastern Speleological Symposium**, 3-6 October 2018 (Antalya, Turkey), <http://mess4.com/>. 200 people from 15-18 countries. MG attended.

g. **British Cave Research Association - 29<sup>th</sup> Cave Science Symposium**, 13 October 2018 (Bristol, United Kingdom), for information contact Gina Moseley ([gina.moseley@uibk.ac.at](mailto:gina.moseley@uibk.ac.at)). No report.

h. **8<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Show Caves Association**, 12-18 October 2018 (Genga, Italy), <http://www.i-s-c-a.com/event/68-8th-isca-congress>. SG, NZ and GV attended and met with ISCA board.

i. **16<sup>th</sup> International Symposium of Speleotherapy**, 24-28 October 2018 (Zlate Hory, Czech Republic), <http://www.speleotherapycommission.webgarden.com/menu/news/the-xvi-th-international>. No report.

j. **1<sup>st</sup> Colombian Speleological Congress and 8<sup>th</sup> Congress of FEALC** (Federation of Latin American and Caribbean Speleological Associations), 6-10 November 2018 (San Gil, Colombia), <http://sociedadcolombianadageologia.org/8cealc/>. EM attended, very safe and cheap.

k. **International Cave Rescue Training**, 10-18 November 2018 (Lozere, France), [dodelinchristian@gmail.com](mailto:dodelinchristian@gmail.com). Colleagues of ZM attended, report was published in UIS Bulletin 61-1 (July 2019), page 8. See at <http://uis-speleo.org/downloads/uis-bulletins/uisb611.pdf>.

l. **XIV National Congress of Speleology**, 1-4 February

2019 (Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico), <http://umae.org/congreso2019/>. GV and EM attended. Well organised and well attended. GV presented about the IYCK to much enthusiasm. See report on [page 19](#) of this issue.

m. **90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of organised speleology in Bulgaria**, 18 march 2019. Attended by MG.

n. **1<sup>st</sup> Colloquium on the Caves of Azé**, 9-10 March 2019 (Saône-et-Loire, France), for more information, contact: [lionel.barriquand@wanadoo.fr](mailto:lionel.barriquand@wanadoo.fr). BC attended.

o. **Hypogea 2019: The International Congress of Speleology in Artificial Cavities**, 20-25 May 2019 (Dobrich, Bulgaria), <http://www.hypogea2019.org/>. No report.

p. **XII International Convention on Environment and Development**, 1-5 July 2019 (Havana, Cuba), <http://www.cu-bambiente.com>. Attended by EM.

q. **National Speleological Congress of Switzerland**, 9-12 August 2019 (Interlaken, Switzerland), <https://sin-terlaken.ch/en/> JPB attended, 300 attendees, mostly from Switzerland

r. **35<sup>th</sup> Brazilian Congress of Speleology, and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Brazilian Speleological Society**, 19-22 June 2019 (Bonito, Brazil), <http://www.cavernas.org/35cbe>. Attended by EM, NC, NZ, JPB. Impressive music introduction.

s. **27<sup>th</sup> Classical Karstological School**, 21-27 June 2019 (Postojna, Slovenia), <http://iks.zrc-sazu.si/en/>. Pavel Bosak.

t. **Slovakian National Caving Congress**, 10-11 May 2019. Attended by ZM.

u. **3<sup>rd</sup> Asian TransKarst Conference**, 30 August – 1 September 2019 (Philippines), <http://www.transkarst2019.com/>. UIS Bureau attended!

## 18) Attendance on future speleology events (listing events and attendees)

a. **ArmConference 2019: Caves as Natural and Cultural Monuments**, 11-13 September 2019 (Yerevan, Armenia), <http://armconference2019.com/>

b. **25<sup>th</sup> International Cave Bear Symposium**, 18-22 September 2019 (Paklenica National Park, Croatia), [nadja.kavcik@univie.ac.at](mailto:nadja.kavcik@univie.ac.at). MG to attend.

c. **13<sup>th</sup> EuroSpeleo Forum**, 26-29 September 2019 (Sofia, Bulgaria), <https://esf2019.speleo-bg.org>. MG GH to attend.

d. **International Symposium on Techniques for Remote Location of Unknown Underground Cavities**, 26-29 September 2019 (Sofia, Bulgaria), <https://esf2019.speleo-bg.org/symposia/>.

e. **Protected Karst Territories – Legislation, Tourism, Monitoring**, 29 September-2 October 2019 (Sofia, Bulgaria), <http://prokarstterra.bas.bg/forum2019>.

f. **46<sup>th</sup> IAH Congress “Groundwater Management and Governance Coping with Water Scarcity” (Topic 7: Karst Hydrogeology)**, 23-27 September 2019 (Malaga, Spain), <http://www.iah2019.org/topics-and-sessions/>.

g. **Sustainable Management of Show Caves**, 7-9 October 2019 (Skocjan Caves Park, Slovenia), <https://izrkc-sci-mtg.zrc-sazu.si/en/>. NZ may attend.

h. **National Cave and Karst Management Symposium**, 7-11 October 2019 (Bristol, Virginia, USA), <http://nckms.org/2019-symposium>.

i. **British Cave Research Association 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Cave Science Symposium**, 19-20 October 2019 (Keyworth, Nottingham, UK). For more information contact Dr. Andy Farrant at: [arf@bgs.ac.uk](mailto:arf@bgs.ac.uk).

j. **13<sup>th</sup> European Cave Rescue Meeting**, 15-17 November 2019 (Istanbul, Turkey), <https://caverescue.eu/13th-european-cave-rescue-meeting/>. GH to attend.

k. **International Congress: 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Cuban Speleological Society**, 19-23 February 2020 (Cai-barién, Villa Clara, Cuba). For information contact [congreso80aniv.sec@gmail.com](mailto:congreso80aniv.sec@gmail.com). EM to attend.

l. **16<sup>th</sup> Multidisciplinary Conference on the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst**, 20-24 April 2020 (San Juan, Puerto Rico), [www.sinkholeconference.com](http://www.sinkholeconference.com). GV and EM to attend.

m. **ALCADI 2020 - International Symposium on History of Speleology and Karstology in the Alps, Carpathians and Dinarides**, 30 April-3 May 2020 (Gorizia, Italy). GH and MG to attend.

n. **23<sup>rd</sup> Conference of the Australasian Cave and Karst Management Association**, 3-8 May 2020 (Jenolan Caves, New South Wales, Australia), [www.ackma.org](http://www.ackma.org). TM may attend.

o. **9<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on Ice Caves (IWIC-IX) & the 12<sup>th</sup> Scientific Conference Research, Utilization and Protection of Caves**, 12-15 May 2020 (Liptovský Mikuláš, Slovakia), for information contact [milos.melega@ssj.sk](mailto:milos.melega@ssj.sk). UIS Bureau meeting.

p. **US Geological Survey Karst Interest Group Meeting**, 13-14 May 2020 (Nashville, Tennessee). For information contact [akclark@usgs.gov](mailto:akclark@usgs.gov).

q. **UNESCOKARST 2020: Conservation of Fragile Karst Resources**, 18-22 May 2020 (Bowling Green, Kentucky, USA), <https://uneskokarst2020.com/>. GV to attend.

r. **19<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology**, 29 August-5 September 2020 (Catania, Italy), <http://www.19isvetna.com/>. Julia James to attend.

s. **6<sup>th</sup> European Cave and Karst Protection Symposium**, 22-26 September 2020 (Island of Vilm, Germany). BV to attend.

t. **28<sup>th</sup> Classical Karstological School "Classical Karst"**, 15-19 June, 2020 (Postojna Slovenia), [https://iks.zrc-sazu.si/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/28th\\_IKS\\_First-Circular.pdf](https://iks.zrc-sazu.si/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/28th_IKS_First-Circular.pdf). NZ to attend.

u. **EuroKarst 2021: The European Congress on Karst Hydrogeology and Carbonate Reservoirs**, 22-24 June 2021 (Málaga, Spain), <http://www.eurokarst.org/>.

v. **18<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Speleology**, 23-29 July 2021 (Lyon, France), <http://uis2021.speleos.fr/>. UIS bureau to attend.

## 19) Any other business

a. **Candidates for the 19<sup>th</sup> ICS, 2025?** – Mexico has expressed interest (Cancun); China is interested in bidding – internal permissions may be an issue; Brazil may be interested in bidding. Proposals must be formally submitted by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 (1 year in advance).

b. **Status of ISO standards** (*G. Veni, B. Vogel*) – first meeting will be in the next 2 weeks in China (22-25 September). BV has been in contact with various countries and Canada will report on the meeting results. Currently the USA is not an observing or contributing country. The head the ISO committee in China has made it possible for the UIS to be present as a participating organisation in the future.

This ISO process appears to be driven by the Chinese government requiring China's International Research Center on Karst to develop the committee. ISO standards can be useful if they are "good" however replacing existing long established terminology is not useful. Information to be sent to Phil Rowsell.

c. **FEALC request to become a UIS Associated Speleological Organization** (*E. Mercado*) – George reported finding nothing in the FEALC Code of Ethics that would violate UIS standards of the UIS Code of Ethics. Everyone agreed as follows "The UIS accepted FEALC's request to become a UIS Associated Speleological Organization with the understanding that UIS recognizes FEALC has its own Code of Ethics, which do not violate but include concepts of the UIS Code of Ethics."

d. **SBE would like to present "Carta de Bonito" to be supported by UIS** (*N. Colzato*) – farmers in the area are polluting river water through land clearing of riparian vegetation that is polluting caves down stream. NC to provide additional information.

e. **Announcements or anything else** – minor changes to the UIS event guidelines as proposed by GV approved by meeting.

f. Following new information, the UIS Bureau will next gather as follows:

- May 9 - Slovak Speleological Society Meeting
- May 10-11 - Bureau meeting
- May 12-15 - 9<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on Ice Caves & the 12<sup>th</sup> Scientific Conference Research, Utilization and Protection of Caves.

## 20) Closing Statements (*G. Veni*)

George VENI closed the 2019 UIS Bureau meeting, by thanking them for their time and input.

Meeting closed at 17h46, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September 2019.



## UIS Annual Bureau Meeting - Bohol, Philippines - September 11-12, 2019

Photos by Santos Tagupa



# Calendar of Events

2020  
2021

## Cave Geology Workshop

16 February 2019 (Derbyshire, United Kingdom)

<https://british-caving.org.uk/wiki3/doku.php?id=diary>

## International Congress: 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Cuban Speleological Society

19-23 February 2020 (Caibarién, Villa Clara, Cuba)

Contact: [congreso80aniv.sec@gmail.com](mailto:congreso80aniv.sec@gmail.com)

## X International Conference of Minerals Resources Exploitation (CINAREM)

7-9 April 2020 (Moa, Holguín, Cuba)

<http://cinarem.ismm.edu.cu/>

## 16<sup>th</sup> Multidisciplinary Conference on the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst

20-24 April 2020 (San Juan, Puerto Rico)

<https://www.sinkholeconference.com>

## ALCADI 2020: International Symposium on History of Speleology and Karstology

30 April – 1-2-3 May 2020 (Alps, Carpathians and Dinarides, Gorizia, Italy)

Contact: [seppenhofer@libero.it](mailto:seppenhofer@libero.it)

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Conference of the Australasian Cave and Karst Management Association

3-8 May 2020 (Jenolan Caves, New South Wales, Australia)

[www.ackma.org](http://www.ackma.org)

## 9<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on Ice Caves (IWIC-IX) & the 12<sup>th</sup> Scientific Conference Research, Utilization and Protection of Caves

12-15 May 2020 (Liptovský Mikuláš, Slovakia)

<http://www.ssj.sk/en/akcia/18-12th-scientific-conference-research-protection-and-utilization-of-caves>

## US Geological Survey Karst Interest Group Meeting

13-14 May 2020 (Nashville, Tennessee, USA)

Contact: [akclark@usgs.gov](mailto:akclark@usgs.gov)

## UNESCOkarst 2020: Conservation of Fragile Karst Resources

18-22 May 2020 (Bowling Green, Kentucky, USA)

<https://unescokarst2020.com/>

## 14<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Pseudokarst

4-7 June 2020 (Świętokrzyskie (Holy Cross) Mountains, Chęciny, Central Poland)

<https://14pseudokarst.wonders4you.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/160558391901663/>

## 25<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Subterranean Biology

28 June – 4 July 2020 (Alba Iulia, Romania)

<https://www.25icsb.com/>

# Calendar of Events

2020  
2021

## 14<sup>th</sup> Balkan Cavers Camp 2020

2-5 July 2020 (Bacho Kiro Cave, Dryanovo 5370, Bulgaria)

<http://balkancaverscamp.weebly.com/>

## Karst Record IX (KR9) Conference

12-15 July 2020 (Innsbruck, Austria)

<https://www.uibk.ac.at/congress/kr9/>

## US National Speleological Society Annual Convention

27-31 July 2020 (Elkins, West Virginia, USA)

<https://caves.regfox.com/nss-convention-2020>

## 14<sup>th</sup> EuroSpeleo Forum - EuroSpeleo 2020

30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the European Speleological Federation (FSE)

July 31 – August 2 2020 (Burgos, Spain)

<https://congresointernacionalespeleologia2020.blogspot.com/>

## Carbonate Critical Zone: An NSF-Sponsored Workshop

2-5 August 2020 (Philadelphia and central Pennsylvania, USA)

<https://carbonatecriticalzone.research.ufl.edu/>

## 19<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology

29 August – 5 September 2020 (Catania, Italy)

<http://www.19isvetna.com/>

## Geological Society of America Convention

25-28 October 2020 (Montréal, Québec, Canada)

<http://www.geosociety.org/>

## Eurokarst 2021: The European Congress on Karst Hydrogeology and Carbonate Reservoirs

22-24 June 2021 (Málaga, Spain)

<http://www.eurokarst.org/>

## USA National Speleological Society Convention

June 28 – July 2, 2021 (Weed, California, USA)

<http://nss2021.caves.org/>

## 18<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Speleology

23-29 July 2021 - (Savoie Technolac, Le Bourget-du-Lac, Savoie, France)

<http://uis2021.speleos.fr/>

## Speleo Kamaraton 2021

October 29-November 1 2021 (Marina di Camerota, Salerno, Italy)

<http://www.speleokamaraton.eu/>

## New venue for the

# 18<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SPELEOLOGY

## SAVOIE-TECHNOLAC // FRANCE

### 25 JULY - 1 AUGUST, 2021

Dear friends cavers, scientists, cave lovers,

The location of the 18<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Speleology first programmed in Lyon (France) has changed for technical reasons.

It is not so far (100 km) from Lyon situated in another kind of site, less urban but more scenary, at the entrance of the Alps, near Chambéry and the Mont Blanc.

Very accessible by motorways A41 and A43 from Geneva and Lyon International Airports, the International Congress of Speleology based in Savoie-Technolac area is very close to Italy and Switzerland. It offers many possibilities as Lyon did for caving, canyoning, trekking, patrimonial tourism. You will be very close to the Geoparks of Bauges and Chartreuse, to the Natural Reserve of the Jura Mountains, not so far from Vercors as well...

As initially planned, you will have camping possibilities and rooms available in the campus situated near the biggest natural lake of France, the Lac du Bourget. Hostels at Chambéry and Aix-les-Bains are numerous.

80 km from Geneva, the Rhône-Alpes-Auvergne Region will welcome you in the Savoie Technolac Congress of Speleology area with all what you need: restaurants with very famous gastronomy around Lyon (city of Paul Bocuse), speleobars, regional gastronomy food trucks, parties with music, films, art exhibitions, olympics, caving office, and of course lectures among 16 symposiums, posters, bookshops, caving tools shops in the original region of Petzl, etc.

Before, during and after the Congress 2021 you will find on the website possibilities of regional caving in prestigious areas (Jean Bernard, Berger, Diau, Ardèche, Jura, Vercors, and in other places of France and why not neighbour

countries). The excursions of Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup> of July will propose to all of you many destinations in the area of Savoie Technolac: between 1 hour and 4 hours by car. Touristic ideas of excursions will be proposed for the companions and families.

The first circular will be in January 2020, the registration and the submitting of texts of lectures with a few lines too. You will find any subject of interest for you: biology, karstology, exploration, diving, archeology, paleontology, geology, history, rescue, show-caves, photography.

The European Federation of Speleology will organize its Euro Speleo Project during the congress.

So this change of location makes unchanged the quality of welcoming you in France, close to the Alps for a great moment in the history of UIS that proposes also the International Year of Caves and Karst (IYCK) in 2021 (see at <http://www.iyck2021.org/>) and to pay a tribute to Martel with the hundredth birthday of the **"Nouveau traité des eaux souterraines"**.

Link for the 18<sup>th</sup> ICS website:

<https://uis2021.speleos.fr/>

We wait for you!



# 18<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SPELEOLOGY

SAVOIE-TECHNOLAC // FRANCE  
25 JULY - 1 AUGUST, 2021



From Martel to nowadays - Bramabiau Resurgence (Card) - © PhC



Union Internationale  
de Spéléologie  
[www.uis-speleo.org](http://www.uis-speleo.org)



# 18<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Speleology



UNIVERSITÉ  
SAVOIE  
MONT BLANC



18<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS  
**SPELEOLOGY**

SAVOIE  
MONT BLANC  
FRANCE  
2021

**25 July  
1 August  
2021**

**SAVOIE TECHNOLAC  
CAMPUS BOURGET-DU-LAC**



# ICS 2021 ON THE WAY

by the French Federation of Speleology



The next International Congress of Speleology will occur in summer 2021, hosted by the French Federation of Speleology and jointly organised by the International Union of Speleology. Eagerly awaited by speleologists and scientists from all over the world, this event will be the 18th occasion of the broadest speleology and caving expeditions gathering for both amateurs and professionals.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Conferences, talks, exhibitions and activities
- Pre/Post Congress excursions and day camps
- Meetings
- Various exhibitors



## SAVOIE TECHNOLAC

a vibrant hub for research and development

The venue selected for ICS 2021 is Savoie Mont-Blanc University Technolac Campus, one of the greatest research centres of the area, providing the ideal conditions for conferences, talks and scientific activities.

Located close to city centres, train stations and airports, as well as beautiful caving sites, Savoie Technolac is in full possession of ICS requirements and participants expectations.

## SAVE THE DATE

**18th International  
Congress of Speleology**

**2021**

From July 25th to August 1st  
*Savoie Mont-Blanc, France*

Campus Savoie Technolac

# UIS BUREAU 2017/2021

**President:**

George VENI (*USA*)

**Vice-President of Operations:**

Efraín Mercado (*Puerto Rico*)

**Vice-President of Administration:**

Zdeněk MOTYČKA (*Czech Republic*)

**Secretary General:**

Fadi NADER (*Lebanon*)

**Treasurer:**

Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA (*Slovenia*)

**Adjunct Secretaries:**

Nivaldo COLZATO (*Brazil*)

Mladen GARAŠIĆ (*Croatia*)

Bernard CHIROL (*France*)

Satoshi GOTO (*Japan*)

Gyula HEGEDUS (*Hungary*)

Tim MOULDS (*Australia*)

Bärbel VOGEL (*Germany*)

**UIS Past-Presidents**

Arrigo A. CIGNA (*Italy*) - 1973-1981

Adolfo ERASO ROMERO (*Spain*) - 1981-1986

Derek C. FORD (*Canada*) - 1986-1989

Paolo FORTI (*Italy*) - 1993-1997

Julia Mary JAMES (*Australia*) - 1997-2001

José Ayrton LABEGALINI (*Brazil*) - 2001-2005

Andrew EAVIS (*United Kingdom*) - 2005-2013

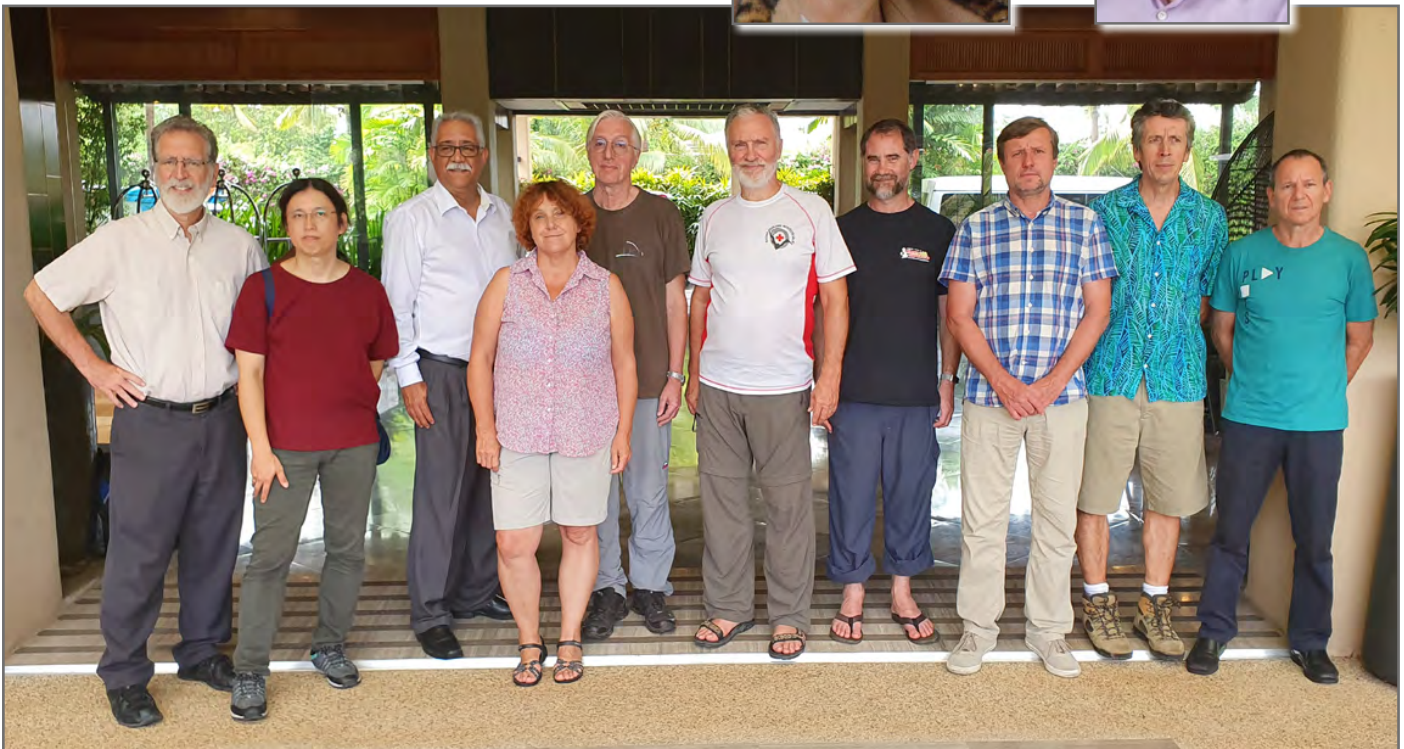
Kyung Sik WOO (*Republic of Korea*) - 2013-2017



© BÄRBEL VOGEL



© FADI NADER



© NIVALDO COLZATO

## UIS BUREAU 2017/2021 in Bohol, Philippines, September 12, 2019.

**Left to right:** George VENI (*President/USA*); Satoshi GOTO (*Adjunct Secretary/Japan*); Efraín MERCADO (*Vice-President of Operations/Puerto Rico*); Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA (*Treasurer/Slovenia*); Mladen GARAŠIĆ (*Adjunct Secretary/Croatia*); Gyula HEGEDUS (*Adjunct Secretary/Hungary*); Tim MOULDS (*Adjunct Secretary/Australia*); Zdeněk MOTYČKA (*Vice-President of Administration/Czech Republic*); Bernard CHIROL (*Adjunct Secretary/France*), and Nivaldo COLZATO (*Adjunct Secretary/Brazil*).  
**Inset photos above:** Bärbel VOGEL (*Adjunct Secretary/Germany*); and Fadi NADER (*Secretary General/Lebanon*).



# LIST OF MEMBER NATIONS as reported by the UIS Treasurer

54 Member Nations

## UIS FEES - JANUARY 2020

### Paid through

Australia (2020)	Germany (2019)	Netherland (2021)	South Korea (2020)
Belgium (2019)	Greece (2019)	Poland (2019)	Spain (2020)
Brazil (2021)	Hungary (2019)	Portugal (2020)	Sweden (2019)
Canada (2021)	Iran IR (2020)	Puerto Rico (2020)	Ukraine (2021)
China (2019)	Italy (2020)	Romania (2019)	United Kingdom (2020)
Croatia (2019)	Lithuania (2021)	Serbia (2021)	Venezuela ( <i>not paying</i>
Czech Republic (2019)	Mexico (2023)	Slovakia (2019)	<i>until 2021 due to poor</i>
France (2019)	Norway (2021)	Slovenia (2019)	<i>financial situation)</i>

### UIS members with debts for 2019 or more (last payment):

Algeria (2013)	Honduras (2013)	New Zealand (2018)
Argentina (2017; <i>at next Congress</i> )	Indonesia (2017)	Philippines (2017)
Austria (2018)	Israel (2017; <i>at next Congress</i> )	Russia (2017)
Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)	Japan (2018; <i>at next Congress</i> )	South Africa (2017)
Bulgaria (2018)	Kyrgyzstan (2018)	Switzerland (2018)
Colombia (2015)	Lebanon (2017; <i>at next Congress</i> )	Tukey (2015)
Costa Rica (2018)	Luxemburg (2018)	USA (2018)
Cuba (2017)	Mongolia (2017; <i>paid 4 years in 2018</i> )	Vietnam (2017)

### On the way to lose membership in 2020 if they don't pay their fees:

Algeria, Colombia, Honduras, Pakistan, and Turkey

Please indicate WHO is paying for your country - especially if there are two or more speleological associations in your country. The UIS Bureau can't select the payer for your country and we don't return money!!!

If you have a new treasurer or responsible person for payments, please send the new name and e-mail address to [zupan@zrc-sazu.si](mailto:zupan@zrc-sazu.si).

We do not know who to contact in some countries or we do not have their proper address.

**UPDATE your status now!**

**CONTACT UIS**

UNION INTERNATIONALE DE SPÉLÉOLOGIE

Titov trg 2, 6230 Postona, Slovenia

[www.uis-speleo.org](http://www.uis-speleo.org)

***If there are any irregularities, or if you have not found your country in this list, please, [ask the UIS Treasurer](#)***

# FINANCE

# ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

By Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA (Slovenia), *UIS Treasurer* - [zupan@zrc-sazu.si](mailto:zupan@zrc-sazu.si)



© NADJA ZUPAN HAJNA

Prof. Dr. Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA (Slovenia), *UIS Treasurer*.



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Headquarters of the Karst Research Institute in Postojna, Slovenia, where the offices of the UIS are located. In the detail, the bronze plaque with the emblem of the UIS affixed below the name of the institute.

The UIS General Assembly at the 17<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Speleology (Sydney, Australia, 2017), approved the amended fee categories of member countries, which are based on the number of speleologists in the national organization or organizations that represent the country to the UIS.

The new annual contributions are as follows, starting after the 17<sup>th</sup> ICS, Sydney, Australia:

- Category A:** 2,000 speleologists or more ..... **480 Euros**
- Category B:** at least 1,000 but fewer than 2,000 .... **360 Euros**
- Category C:** at least 100 but fewer than 1,000 ... **240 Euros**
- Category D:** less than 100 ..... **60 Euros**

If the fees are not paid for more than five years, the Member Country will lose its membership in the UIS.

The UIS Bureau may reduce or waive the fee of a Member Country if the Member Country makes a written request describing the reasons why it is having difficulties making its payments and how long those difficulties are expected to continue. All fee payments and related communications are conducted between the UIS Treasurer and the Member Countries.

## UIS BANK ACCOUNT

<b>Account name</b>	<b>Account N°</b>
Mednarodna speleološka zveza-UIS Titov trg 2 6230 Postojna - Slovenia	IBAN SI56 1010 0003 7861 520
<b>Bank (name and address)</b>	<b>SWIFT Code:</b> BAKOSI2X
Intesa Sanpaolo Bank d.d. Traška 2 - 6230 Postojna - Slovenia	<b>Accepted Currencies:</b> EUR (Euros)

## STATE OF UIS BANK ACCOUNT ON DECEMBER 31, 2019

**EUR - Account balance • 37.164,57**  
**USD - Account balance • 48.614,55**

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# EDITOR'S DISCLOSURE

Before submitting articles, please, refer to the  
**Guide for Submitting and Publishing Articles in the UIS Bulletin**

**[CLIC HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE FILE](#)**

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.

Should you have any question or comments, please send them to:

***[uisbulletin@uis-speleo.org](mailto:uisbulletin@uis-speleo.org)***



**UIS BULLETIN**



**UIS**  
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