

## **Minutes from the UIS Bureau Sessions (1993-1996)**

### **The 3<sup>rd</sup> regular session of the UIS Bureau Breitenbach (Switzerland) October 4-6, 1995**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> regular session of the Bureau of the International Speleological Union was held in Breitenbach, Switzerland on October 4-6, 1995 on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> National Speleological Congress.

*Present:* Petar Beron, Pavel Bosák, Andy Eavis, Paolo Forti, Julia Mary James, José Ayrton Labegalini, Alexander Klimchouk, Urs Widmer Zhang Shouyue, Hubert Trimmel

The session started by the *control of the agenda* from Jedovnice, 1994. It was stated, that the preparation of the information brochure on the UIS have to continue owing to the complexity of the problem. The sportive and scientific activities should be pointed out separately. The distribution of the internal responsibility to Secretaries Adjoint will be the obligatory task of the new UIS Bureau. Contacts with Namibia were established, there is no official speleological organization, therefore its annual contributions are frozen. Contacts were established with Bolivia, annual fees will be covered during 12<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Speleology. The Bureau adopted the resolution that both dead and living persons will be included into the List of Honours. According to the rules accepted and after the proposals of the national delegates and Commission/Working Group Presidents, the list will be prepared in the next UIS Bureau Session. The idea of direct financial sponsoring of expeditions which appeared in last Bureau Session was fully rejected.

*The UIS finances.* On the October 3, 1995, the UIS has 5,702.79 USD deposited on its account in Prague, 65 000 ATS on bank book in Vienna and 2,683.30 CZK cash by the Secretary General. Costa Rica promised to pay annual contributions for 1994-1997 during the 12<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Speleology in Switzerland 1997.

*The Code of Ethics* was prepared, based on version of Labegalini and Forti, completed by James. The Bureau adopted the resolution that the proposal of the Code of ethics is approved and recommended for the authorization during the Assembly General (see the text in this volume).

*The UIS Awards.* The system of the UIS Awards was proposed. Awards can be supported by a total sum of 1,000 USD. The Bureau adopted the resolution that the proposal of the system of the UIS Awards is approved and recommended for the authorization during the Assembly General (see the text in this volume).

*The agreement with the International Geographical Union was proposed by the IGU.* After the long discussion, it resulted that such agreement will have general political profit for the UIS and will enable to closely cooperate on the edition of the BBS Abstracts which could have broader market. The Bureau adopted the resolution that the improved proposal of the agreement is approved and recommended for the voting procedure during the Assembly General and to deliver it to the IGU (see the text in this volume).

*UIS Commissions.* According to the elections by the correspondence, Prof. Dr. Stein-Erik Lauritzen (Bergen, Norway) is confirmed the Acting President of the *UIS Commission on Paleokarst and Speleochronology*. Dr. Carol Hill asked the Bureau to establish the *UIS Working Group on Cave Mineralogy* to standardize new names of cave minerals. As the establishment of the WG is supposed only for 1997, the idea was accepted with thanks. The establishment will be one point of the Assembly General 1997. The Hungarian proposal to establish the *UIS Commission - the League of towns above caves* has a strong support of the UIS Bureau. Nevertheless, the proposal lacks some of major information and also the idea to focus main problems of management of towns (settlements, villages) in the karst is limited only to some problems and fits rather to the rank of nongovernmental organization. The UIS supports the idea of establishing of such NGO and will help it by consultations and active participation. If there is the will, the UIS Bureau is proposing to Hungarians to establish the *UIS Working Group on the Urbanization of Karst*. There appeared the information of the *UIS Commission on Informatics* on the character of its system of storage of information (WWW) and the information of Klimchouk on *UIS Servers* which are set up (for actual information, rapid data exchange, cannot store the data, only to distribute). Y. Shopov (the UIS Commission on Physico-Chemistry and Hydrogeology of Karst) delivered to all UIS Bureau Members the *Proposal for improvement of the scientific work of UIS by formation of UIS Scientific Steering Committee*. The UIS Bureau mentions that the material maybe can represent good idea but the form is in not acceptable look, it introduces the mechanism of parallelism and contributes to further deeper separation of cavers and scientists. As the UIS Bureau chosen other rules (e.g. during the 1994 Session), the material was rejected. During the discussion, there appeared the proposal to insert the definition of the UIS Permanent Commissions and the UIS Temporary (ad hoc) Commissions into the UIS Statut.

*Improvements of the UIS Statut.* As the present valid text of the UIS Statut was confirmed in 1964 and completed in some paragraphs in 1969 (Stuttgart), 1977 (Sheffield) and 1981 (Bowling Green), the necessity to complete it arisen according to demands of speleological and karst institutions, UIS member countries and individuals. The whole text of the valid Statut was thoroughly discussed comparing the French version with the German and Russian translations. Both translations are somewhat changing the sense of the French version, the Russian version is very imperfect. There were several basic problems to be discussed and solved, i.e. the problem of the institutional membership (affiliated institutions), definition of Commissions and Working Groups, and the statut of the UIS Bureau. After the discussion, the UIS Bureau members decided to improve the UIS Statut to reflect present situation in the international speleology. Nevertheless, the improvements are not changing the general sense and basic ideas of the original text.

*Affiliated institutions.* It was mentioned, that such bodies cannot be named members. It was proposed to use the term - affiliated institution. It means that the designation of such form of "membership" cannot be against the sense of the UIS Statut, therefore the UIS Statut have to be improved. The UIS Bureau adopted the resolution - the UIS Bureau agrees with the implementation of the *affiliated members* into the structure of the UIS Statut. Such bodies will have no voting rights during the Assemblies General. The height of annual contributions and other practical consequences will be prepared during the 1996 Session in the form for the voting procedure during the Assembly General 1997. The *UIS Bureau Statut*: the statut of the UIS Bureau should be changed to the *Executive Bureau* with the executive power for better, clear and more rapid decisions in the effective and fast way. The UIS Bureau should have possibility to establish, cancel or freeze e.g. the Commissions or Working Groups. The General Assembly can cancel all decisions of the UIS Bureau, but with the validity only after the date of the cancelation by the Assembly General (to exclude back validity of such General Assembly resolution).

*UIS Commissions* should be divided into the *UIS Permanent Commissions* and to the *UIS Temporary* (or ad hoc) *Commissions*. The Temporary Commission will be established for the solution of well-defined project with clear output (results) and they will be time-limited in their life. The change of the Temporary Commission to Permanent Commission have to be confirmed by the Assembly General. The Permanent Commission will be established for the field of permanent interest in speleology and within the UIS. Such Commissions have to be confirmed by the Assembly General. *Working Groups* will be established by the UIS Bureau, their change to the Permanent Commission have to be confirmed by the Assembly General. The Assembly General will approve the activity of Commissions, Working Groups and Committees. The *UIS Comitties* are non-scientific equivalents of the Commissions (e.g. Advisory Committee).

All other minor improvements are included in the proposal of the improved version of the UIS Statut (see this volume), where the French text of valid UIS Statut is completed in new improvements and old iserts from Sheffield and Bowling Green are incorporated into the French text.

*Request of support of the Chinese project.* The Chinese Institute of Geography (Academia Sinica) asked the UIS Bureau to support the idea to include the *Stone Forrest of Yunnan* (Lunan County) into the *UNESCO World Heritage List*. The UIS Bureau adopted the resolution, that the UIS Bureau strongly supports the idea and will support the proposal by the recommendation letter to UNESCO.

*Cooperation with the Speleological Federation of the European Union.* The Bureau was informed on prepared changes of the SFEU Statut which should be discussed during the 1995 SFEU Assembly General in Ireland. The idea of the change is that the SFEU will be the constituent of the UIS. If the proposal is accepted, than the UIS and the SFEU should discuss the problem of the hierarchic incorporation into both Statutes.

*Relations with UNESCO.* As the relations with UNESCO are limited owing to the problem of time demand, personnel and the UIS statut in the category B, the UIS Bureau started to prepare the specialized *Committee* or *Commission for the UNESCO* which will be based on the group of people who are able and experienced with international bodies. It was stated, that within the structure numerous professional associations (i.e. NGO's associated with the UNESCO like as IAH, IGU, IAG, etc.), there are bodies (karst commissions) dealing with karst which are changing their activity in direction of the UIS work and interests. It should be usefull to cooperate with them and to try to delegate all karst problems to the UIS.

*Resolutions of the Bureau meeting:*

- both dead and living persons will be included into the List of Honours
- the proposal of the Code of ethics is approved and recommended for the authorization during the Assembly General
- the proposal of the system of the UIS Awards is approved and recommended for the authorization during the Assembly General
- the improved proposal of the agreement with the IGU is approved and recommended for the voting procedure during the Assembly General and to deliver it to the IGU
- the improved UIS Statut was approved and prepared for the discussion
- the UIS Bureau strongly supports the idea to insert Yunnan Stone Forrest into the UNESCO World Heritage List and will support the proposal by the recommendation letter to UNESCO

*Next UIS Bureau Session* will be held on August 5 to 6, 1996 on the occassion of the NSS Convention, Salida, Colorado, USA.