

MINUTES

Regular Session of the UIS Bureau Hanoi, Vietnam, September 11-12, 2004

1st Session, September 11, 2004

Morning

Present: according to present list

Labegalini, Eavis, Klimchouk, Bosák, Mihevc, Mouret, Nader, James, Trimmel, Veni, guests: Batholeyns, Groves, Kamkesis, 3 Vietnamese colleagues (Khien, My, Van)

(0) Opening

Mr. Eavis – Chairman of the session.

Mr. Labegalini – thanked to Vietnamese colleagues for the hosting the regular Bureau session

Prof. N.X. Khien – on behalf of Vietnamese governmental bodies wished good session and invited Bureau members to the Research Institute for Geology and Mineral Resources.

While of Silence for dead colleagues – Prof. Song Linhua and Dr. Jacques Choppy
The question of replacement of late Prof. Song, Secretary Adjunct of the UIS – no replacement for resting one year, the Bureau is composed of more members than in the past.

(1) Approval of Agenda 2003

Agenda was completed and approved.

(2) Control of Minutes from Regular Session in 2003 (Athens, Greece)

Mouret – summary of conclusions and motions should be prepared from each Minutes.

(3) Finances - review

information was taken into account.

after, different items were discussed, e.g., financing of the International Journal of Speleology and subscriptions, leaflet, UIS Bulletin

Vale – how member countries have been covering their annual fees? – explained (Bosak) that annual fees have been covered irregularly, mostly in cash during Congresses, problems of old debts

(11) Greece 2005

Eavis explained history in introduction

Veni informed on annual NSS Convention and the will of 18-20 persons to travel to Greece, the main problem is in web pages and discouragement of eventual participants

Discussion to the Circular

the low cost to be postponed to January 31, 2004

Eavis – he will implement recommendations and comments of the UIS Bureau members; simultaneous translation – only on Assembly General, not in sessions

James – if other than official UIS languages used – illustrative materials in English to be resent

Support to students and developing countries – review of presented abstracts and/or support of national delegates needed. Invitation letters for visa application should be send.

Excursions – the national delegates and Bureau members should be informed on programs, prices of both pre- and post-Congress excursions for distribution. For organization, Greeks will use professional agency.

Proceedings – broad discussion and information exchange. Organizers wanted help of UIS Commissions (Mouret), Mr. Papadopoulos will edit the volume (Eavis), but they have Scientific Committee (Klimchouk), but only on the paper (Eavis).

Bosak – Proceedings must be available at the registration, post-costs are too high.

Scientific Program

Klimchouk – to ask our commissions to co-operation, to propose symposia joined to commission meetings. How to implement commissions? Our main role in formulation of themes.

Timing – similar to 3rd Symposium on Cave Archaeology and Palaeontology; nothing changed. Papers should be camera ready and instructions for authors should be on web pages.

Nader – to encourage the participation also of cavers.

Klimchouk – critical problem of communication and information; www pages must be actualized after each change.

Motion – letter to commissions will be distributed immediately after return from Vietnam, to contact organizers and to propose themes of special events

(5) Principal documents of the UIS

(5.1.) UIS Constitution/Statute – translations

Mouret and Bartholeyns – corrected the French text from grammatical point of view, which changes will be discussed with Trimmel and Advisory Committee. After to present it to Assembly General.

Labegalini – only corrected French text should be translated, i.e. Italian and German versions must be corrected, English version must be finished, and Spain must be arranged.

Nader – Arabic version will be ensured, too.

Mouret – if I am asked to arrange something, please avoid situation when I hear that somebody else is making the same.

Time-schedule – will be co-ordinated by Bosak.

(5.2.) Internal Regulations/Reglement Interieur (incl. Congress affairs)

Labegalini – presented the text and gave its justification.

Bosak – the text is too complicated and too long.

2nd Session, September 11, 2004

Afternoon

Present: according to present list

Labegalini, Eavis, Klimchouk, Bosák, Mihevc, Mouret, Nader, James, Trimmel, Veni, guests: Batholeyns

(5.2.) Internal Regulations/Reglement Interieur (incl. Congress affairs)

continuation of morning discussion

Bosak made introduction, history and comments.

Labegalini – will distribute the text again for comments. Comments should be delivered up to December 15, 2004.

(5.3.) Recommendations for Organizers of Events

Bartholeyns – will ask Swiss organizers 1997 for their texts.

Labegalini – text should be divided to Congress Regulations and part explaining how the UIS can support Congresses.

(6) Commissions and Working Groups

Bosak made introduction according to Minutes 2003

Trimmel – the principal is to obtain the report of commission activity and to organize special symposium with commission session during the Congress.

Labegalini – to have oral presentation at Assembly General or only meeting with report during the Congress?

Mouret – reported, that he obtained only some reports and presented offer of UISIC Commission President P. Matthews to have space on web page.

Nader – it is necessary to have reports on the table (James supported) and to make conclusions from them.

Vale – are there regulations for presentation of commission report?

Bosak – no.

Klimchouk – there are 2 formal views on commissions. To have broader view – how the UIS wants to support? Commissions could be directed to all branches of science, but with some sense. Commissions have theme, so they could be forever. Problem – we have more formalistic demands to commissions. We lost whole branches of science in the past (biospeleology...).

Nader – we have long list of commissions; there are, maybe, people available, but we have no respective commission. What UIS gives to commissions?

Klimchouk – to cancel commissions – this cannot be our way, we are losing people and topics.

Veni – commission will rest but the leader is searched (vacant positions); UIS should provide more advertisement, nobody knows UIS.

James – we should concentrate to topics we are able to maintain we lost show caves. UIS concentrated in the past both prominent scientists and prominent cavers.

Klimchouk – 10 years over and no leaflet.

Nader – more propaganda, to support active commissions.

Mouret – if commission is not active, to inform in web pages.

Labegalini – speleology in the World must be viewed by the UIS, the UIS logo should be broadly utilized. Problem of international expeditions, books, ...

James – in spite of fact that we write lot of supporting letters, nothing improved. We have to become high-profile in caving (speleology).

Eavis – the role of commissions probably has changed, which should be taken into account in the future.

Veni – when I want to compile book, why to establish the Commission.

Nader – moral support is necessary, financial would be good.

James – to remit Congress fee for the Commission Presidents.

Klimchouk – the Commission President is elected, the UIS Bureau should have possibility to influence that. Personal problems in President positions have been known.

James and Labegalini – all commission chair are vacant after 4 years.

Klimchouk – but who will elect them.

Eavis – we need more discussion with Commissions.

Veni – the mechanism of decisions should be accelerated.

Mouret – to organize session with Presidents in Athens.

Klimchouk – Commissions should be fully under the control of the Bureau. If there are personal and procedural problem, Commission will elect new President, if not Bureau will name him (her). If we have not such possibility, we are in the trap.

James – if named, after they must be superb persons (most prominent) for which the high-profile of the UIS is necessary.

Eavis – there exists the way how to encourage the presence of such people in Athens.

Klimchouk – why we have Departments?

Nader – to encourage people to organization of events.

Mihevc – which people? Who is responsible?

Trimmel – the Departments were needed when official contacts with the UNESCO. Department Presidents collected information and reports from commissions and sent them to the UNESCO. Today Departments are without any reason.

Klimchouk – Vice-Presidents should have meeting with Mrs. James and to think on possibility how to get those people to Athens.

Mouret – all of us must search for people and contact them for commission work.

Klimchouk – we are looking for co-ordination.

Vale – biospeleology went out (answer yes).

Bosak – Commissions can be cancelled, but we must find the mechanism how to do that.

Veni – commissions must inform each other (report), after 2 years they can be cancelled.

Klimchouk – not only reports to be presented during Congresses, but also analysis of the state of the art, which can enhance the presidency.

Eavis – Mr. Mouret and Bosak to contact present Presidents for annual reports and analysis.

James and Klimchouk – to search for people and encourage people to come to Athens and to promote the UIS (all UIS Bureau members).

Bartholeyns and Nader – if there is no contact for President etc. to organize the commission session without the respect of missing representative.

Mouret – how the search for President will be organized?

Eavis – the general message is to encourage cavers to present in tents.

(7) UIS Bulletin

Bosak made the introduction. High costs of the print and especially mail (mail is about 4 times more expensive than the print). According to research in UIS Bulletin, all “subscribers” want to obtain hard copy and electronic form simultaneously, those willing to obtain only electronic copy – very low number.

Klimchouk – UIS should inform in national periodicals on its activities.

Mouret and Bartholeyns – direct links to national web pages and direct links from national web pages to that of the UIS.

Labegalini – the electronic form is easy, there exists web page. We have to decide if only electronic form for distribution.

Veni – to pay for copy if in PDF form available.

Klimchouk – 500 hard copies to print (for libraries, etc.).

Eavis – the final decision can be accepted here or only in Athens.

Labegalini – saved money can be used for other purposes.

Nader – compromising conclusion – not to stop hard print completely; the rest should be payed or free available on web pages.

Klimchouk – support of that solution – hard copies for national delegates, national organizations, UIS Bureau, libraries, etc. Part of people form the database is surely inactive now.

(8) Web pages and related items

Bosak made introduction to the problem and asked for searching the person who will replace Peter Matthews, who will finish as Commission President.

Mouret – to search also for new place (instead of Sydney University).

Labegalini – internal regulations should be consulted. The demand should be circulated on web and by e-mails.

Klimchouk – there can be danger of initial enthusiasm of such person and after resignation.

Bosak – problem of site was solved by its movement to Swiss.

Eavis – do not discuss in detail. Labegalini will write to Matthews.

Veni – history of the UIS on 2-3 pages to be prepared.

Klimchouk – the DOI problem (digital object identification) for the identification of objects on internet, location of info on web. We can prepare the catalogue of publications. The doi prefix can be bought and we can build the system of data exchange. We have data and national bodies, so this is the way how to organize. The advantage: 1. protection of rights and 2. referencing system. It will show that UIS is doing something.

Eavis – does the DOI represent the only system? what are other benefits except referencing system?

Mouret – how the rights are protected? the potential problems must be studied and explained.

Vale – which type of protection?

Klimchouk – big publishers are using that system. Answers to other questions will be send by explanation letters, as well as other details.

Motion: voting on acceptance 9 votes for, 0 votes against and 0 votes abstended.

Motion was accepted.

(9) Financial plan

Klimchouk - demand to cover expenses of the UIS Commission on speleogenesis for 2003-2005 in a sum of 361 €.

Voting on acceptance 9 votes for, 0 votes against and 0 votes abstended.

Motion was accepted. Secretary General will cover after the invoice.

(10) Varia.

ad Guatemala (from the last Minutes).

Veni provided information for his experience. Complicated situation exists, as conservation of caves is facing political, ethnological and business aspects.

3rd Session, September 12, 2004 Morning

Present: according to present list

Labegalini, Eavis, Klimchouk, Bosák, Mihevc, Mouret, Nader, Forti, James, Trimmel, Veni, guests: Batholeyns, Groves, Hamilton-Smith, My.

(5) UIS Principal documents - Internal Regulations/Reglement Interieur

Bosak made introduction.

Klimchouk and Bartholeyns – there must be included instruction how to become the member country.

Nader – the return to Statute, internal regulation to rewrite. The web regulations contain rather description of methodology, rather than internal regulations, structure of labor organization is missing.

Klimchouk – regulation for web to be excluded from regulations. Regulations must contain especially structural description of functions.

Bosak – the text must be simplified and unified (to reject repeating whole sentences).

Labegolini – I learned one year what is the UIS. So from which document one can learn what is the UIS? So from some available document. So I am waiting for notes and comments.

(7) UIS Prints – International Journal of Speleology

Forti presented the review of the state of the art. There are problems: financial, to obtain articles, distribution (only 100 copies), new structure of Advisory Board, new Editor-in-Chief.

Eavis – which is problem with distribution? Where it is distributed.

Forti – only 30 subscriptions. We have to change.

Klimchouk – there are another problems: irregularity of print, no internet access, nobody knows. There are questions: why people do not know the IJS, the deepest secret how to order, how to pay, the role of the UIS in search of new editor, I vote against Mr. Burri.

Forti – you are completely true, Mr. Burri is not continuing, new Editor-in-Chief must be outstanding person, but managing editor must be Italian (to ensure contact with the SSI).

Veni – problem with subscriptions – must be solved by advertisement, easy way how to subscribe; to attract 2-3 persons of high quality. All changes to be done in one moment, in other way the problems will reappear in waves.

James – problem is the IJS is not indexed.

Eavis – do you think that the present editorial board has possibility to print it regularly?

Forti – yes, twice a year. The journal has been edited since 1981 in 500 copies. We can wait changes in next 6 months.

Nader – I agree with Italian Editor-in-Chief, Italy has responsibility.

Bosak – the problem of rest.

Forti – yes, rests are big, but the decrease of number of copies does not decrease the price.

Klimchouk – do you have so idea on the vacant position?

Forti – send us names for this position.

(10) Varia.

(10.1.) Member countries

Tunesia

Nader – there exist several groups. They have mutual agreement on their position towards the UIS. There is the person linked locally with the UIS. There exists problem with government (necessity of exit permit). UIS sent the recommendation letter – result – full support of government.

Pakistan

Nader – there exists the only association in Baluchistan. They sent letter demanding the enter to the UIS.

Voting – 9 votes for, 0 votes against, 0 votes abstended.

Motion accepted – to ask Assembly General to vote on acceptance of Pakistan as new member country.

Tanzania project

Nader – informed on activity of expedition of the UIS to Tanzania. The idea grew after Brazil – 5 teams, 20 cavers, 11 countries. The principal task to help to developing country to establish the unified caving body. Tanzanian speleological association was established (Tanga city).

FEALC Region

Vale – reviewed states within the UIS – Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Cuba, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru, Guatemala, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic. There is new activity on El Salvador. Canadians continue to work in Jamaica, there are only several interesting people in caving without sources.

(10.2.) IUCN

Hamilton-Smith reported on the activity of this inter-governmental and non-governmental body, especially on the assessment of proposals to become the World Heritage List member of the UNESCO – the Karst-task Commission, on long-term strategy to develop karst potential, on collaboration with the RAMSAR on underground wetlands, on World Atlas of karst and karst protection, biodiversity and tourism, environmental law issues and on co-operation with the UIS.

Trimmel – UIS was asked, when the UNESCO World Heritage List was established. Most of sites were not accepted as karst area, but from the other aspect.

Eavis – the UIS has the possibility to collaborate with the IUCN through sympatisants within the IUCN.

Veni and Bosak – to establish somebody from the Bureau for the contact with Mr. Hamilton-Smith.

Julia – memorandum on co-operation with the IUCN should be prepared.

Trimmel – we have the possibility top be the member of the IUCN.

(10.3.) IGCP

Groves – explained the state of the art of preparation of the IGCP project (International Comparative Study of Karst Water Resources) with the budget of about 300,000 USD and year. The UIS should to joint the project.

Information was followed by the discussion how to officially join (only individual persons – scientists).

(10.4.) Bid for 2009 in the USA

Veni – gave the detailed information on organization, visa problems, sponsors, supports, accommodation (camping free, cheap dormitories), all within one place. Until now no other official bid.

(10.5.) UIS Prizes

James – 3 categories, not to give prizes for super-publications.

Eavis – encyclopedias represent big achievement.

Veni – if not, to clearly state why.

Bosak – proposed award for outstanding achievements.

Klimchouk – if we are not recognizing such books, it can make problems to us.

Motion accepted – with solution to wait for 2005 session.

(10.6.) Problem Venezuela vs. Slovakia/Czechia

The problem – joined expedition of Slovak and Czech cavers to quartzite karst (with the discovery of big caves) is expected by Venezuelans to be illegal. Slovaks reacted by letter to some steps of the SVE presented publicly.

Vale – informed on letter demanding the UIS to act.

Eavis – there exist serious mistakes on both sides, we cannot be the jury. We think that there were mistakes.

Vale – the Slovak letter in Spanish went too far, we have to be careful in addressing words.

Eavis – Code of Ethics – represents the guide in difficult situations.

Vale – we have enough information that clarifying the situation.

Klimchouk – the terminology in letter is not acceptable. But I do not know if the letter is beyond the Ethic Code.

Eavis – what to do? We do not agree with the tone of the letter.

Labegalini – the right way how to follow must be shown by us. We cannot solve the problem, which is bilateral in principle, we can urge to keep the Ethic Code.

Eavis – we cannot accept such behavior between cavers.

Nader – we are more interested in general benefits, than conflicts. It is necessary to meet those people and to tell them what is impossible. Code of Ethics represents the form of education.

Bosak – the Code of Ethics has been often misused in countries with more than one federation. As the formulations can result from imperfect knowledge of the language, Slovaks will write excusing and explanation letter to all addresses they distributed the original letter.

(10.7.) Bermuda – cave quarrying.

There exists the cave in Bermuda partly damaged by quarrying of limestone. It is expected, that following quarrying will destroy endangered fauna in subterranean waters. There exists letter from Dr. Illife asking the conservation of the cave and 3 opinions of Professor Arrigo A. Cigna, Dr. Peter N. Calder, Mr. Roy Davis prepared for Mr. Summers reporting some operation for recovery of already destroyed cave ceiling. The UIS was asked for letter to Bermuda government.

After short discussion if to send the letter or not and with what content, in which Vale and Hamilton-Smith informed on critically endangered fauna and speleothems, voting started. Results of voting was: 7 for sending the letter, 0 against and 2 abstentions.

Adopted motion: the UIS President will send the letter to Bermuda government.

Accepted motions by voting:

The DOI (digital object identification)

Voting: 9 votes for, 0 votes against and 0 abstention votes. Motion: to accept the DOI after detailed information obtained.

Demand to cover expenses of the UIS Commission on speleogenesis for 2003-2005 in a sum of 361 €.

Voting: 9 votes for, 0 votes against and 0 abstention votes.

Motion was accepted. Secretary General will cover after the invoice.

Pakistan

Voting: 9 votes for, 0 votes against, 0 abstention votes.

Motion accepted – to ask Assembly General to vote on acceptance of Pakistan as new member country.

Bermuda – cave quarrying.

Voting: 7 for sending the letter, 0 against and 2 abstentions. Adopted motion: the UIS President will send the letter to Bermuda government.

Other accepted motions (without voting):

To encourage potential participant of the 14th ICS to take part on the event.

To find a way to encourage prominent specialist for positions of the UIS Commission/WG Presidents.

To ask Commission/WG Presidents to co-operate on the 14th ICS program and to deliver Commission/WG reports and analysis of the state of the art in their field of interest.

The text of the translation of the UIS Statute/Constitution must follow corrected French version.

All versions of the UIS Statute/Constitution, i.e. corrected French and translations to present for approval to Assembly General 2005.

Proposal of the UIS Internal Regulations to be corrected after comments by UIS Bureau members (15.12.2005).

The Memorandum on co-operation with the IUCN should be prepared.

To wait with decision on UIS prizes to UIS 2005 session.

Slovak/Czech expedition to Venezuela to distribute excusing/explanation letter to all addresses they distributed the original letter.

UIS Bureau took into account:

Financial report by UIS Secretary General.

Vacant position of the President of the UIS Commission on Informatics.

Vacant position of Editor-in-Chief of the IJS.

Endeavours to improve the IJS.

Situation in Tunisia and Tanzania.

Preparation of the IGCP project.

Bid of the USA to host the 15th ICS 2009.

Reported by P. Bosak, UIS Secretary General from hand-written notes