

## UIS BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING

April 19-20, 2006

*Dept. of Geology, American University of Beirut - Lebanon*

	<b>Session 1,</b> <i>Wednesday April 19, 2006</i> <i>14:00 Beirut time</i>	<b>Session 2,</b> <i>Thursday April 20, 2006</i> <i>8:30 Beirut time</i>
<b>President</b>	Andrew James EAVIS	
<b>Vice-Presidents</b>	Alexander KLIMCHOUK	
	Pavel BOSÁK	
<b>Secretary General</b>	Fadi NADER	
<b>Adjunct Secretaries</b>	Carlos BENEDETTO	
	Roman HAPKA	
		Stein-Erik LAURITZEN
	Efrain MERCADO	
	Andrej MIHEVC	
	George VENI	
	Kyung Sik WOO	
<b>Honorary Past-Presid.</b>	Hubert TRIMMEL	
<b>Past-President</b>	Julia JAMES	
<b>Dept. Protection (Head)</b>	Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS	
<b>Scribe</b>	Sandrine EL-NAWWAR	

### **1) OPENING SPEECH OF THE UIS PRESIDENT**

The President of the UIS opened the meeting by welcoming all present UIS officers. He announced that Fritz OEDL passed away on April 5, 2006, and made a brief account of OEDL's numerous achievements – namely his continuous service to the international speleological community. All members approved their regret for the loss of such an old active member. Andrew Eavis ran through the Agenda of the meeting and declared the start of the 2006 Annual UIS Bureau Meeting.

### **2) ELECTION CONFIRMATION FOR BUREAU MEMBERS**

Pavel BOSAK announced the last election results (Kalamos – Athens, August 2005). He distributed the official letters of appointments for all members of the 2005-2009 Bureau. He gave the UIS official stamp and a CD with all correspondence to NADER as the new Secretary General, and wished him to last a long period in his position. BOSAK thanked everyone and congratulated them for their new positions.

### **3) APPROVING MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (Athens, August 2005)**

1) All the members agreed that the preparation of the minutes of the last meeting took a lot of time and that the future minutes should be finalized in a more rapid time (less than a month for the annual meeting and three months for a General Assembly).

2) The minutes were approved.

### **4) RESTS FROM THE PAST**

1) Affiliated members:

- Should not be caving bodies, which are represented by delegates from the member countries.
- Should provide a way to bring money to the UIS

- Can not be affiliated to groups and member countries.
- Should follow the Internal Regulations
- Should pay the UIS a minimum amount of 400US \$/year.

## 2) UNESCO

The UIS should be represented in UNESCO through the heritage and protection department. A close UIS relationship with the IUCN should be sought (e.g. following the proposed Memorandum of Understanding with IUCN).

## **5- THE LABEGALINI DOCUMENTS**

All documents prepared by LABEGALINI should be incorporated into the Internal Regulations, except: 1) Instructions for ICS Organization and 2) the Code of Ethics.

The Bureau members agreed, nevertheless that the UIS should have an approved version of the Internal Regulations by the next General Assembly. BARTHOLEYNS will take in charge of the translation of the UIS Internal Regulations from English to French.

### 1) GUIDELINES FOR ICS ORGANIZATION

The bureau members agreed on the following:

- 1) Accept to change the title to “ICS General Recommendations”
- 2) Accept the comments made by VENI concerning page 6 of the UIS Internal Regulations proposal;
- 3) “Accompanying members” in page 6 should be deleted.

### 2) INTERNAL REGULATIONS

The Internal Regulations (including all proposed documents by LABEGALINI – see above) were reviewed item by item, including revisions proposed by Pavel BOSAK, George VENI, Paul WILLIAMS, Roman HAPKA and Fadi NADER, and were further modified and approved by all present Bureau members.

## **6- FINANCES UPDATE**

Pavel BOSAK read the financial table and summaries. On April 14, 2006, BOSAK spent 2000 US Dollars for payment for the Tanzania book and he also bought boxes for the UIS archives. BOSAK withdrew all money deposited in the Czech bank and transferred it to the Slovenian Bank account (total worth some 52,000 US Dollars).

The UIS has THREE accounts: the Slovenian account is to cover the banking expenses in Slovenia; the Euro dollar account and the US dollar account are to pay expenses in billed in those currencies. MIHEVC is charged to hire a company in Slovenia to annually audit UIS finances and meet associated legal obligations.

NADER will write a letter authorizing Mr Pavel BOSAK to act as UIS Treasurer. This authorization paper was suggested by TRIMMEL, who explained that the Secretary General, who is supposed to be the Treasurer, could appoint another Bureau Member for that task.

## **7- THE BBS**

The Bureau members agreed to pay the requested amount of money to P. Deriaz (2000 Euros) to work on the next BBS. The information should be spread without

copyright. The Bibliographic Commission will be directed to examine means of reducing costs such as by distributing BBS via the Internet.

### **8- IJS: ACTUAL SITUATION (BUDGET)**

The Bureau members agreed on paying 5000 US \$ to support publication of the next volume of the IJS, a sum requested by Jo De Waele and his team, who have done a good job improving the journal. BOSAK said that if a contribution to IJS can be assured for some period of time, the UIS would only need to pay 3800 US \$ annually and the Italian Speleological Society could cover the remaining expenses. According to the President, the money should be collected from the International Congresses (e.g. Greece 2005 and the USA 2009).

### **9- 14<sup>th</sup> ICS: FINANCE & PROCEEDINGS**

EAVIS explained that the Greeks received a large grant after the 14<sup>th</sup> ICS (~25,000 Euros). They will use this to give the UIS a subscription payment for all participants and publish the proceedings. They will pay the UIS upon receipt of official invoice.

### **10- COMMISSIONS AND WORKING GROUPS UPDATE**

NADER gave a briefing concerning the activities of the commissions and working groups. Some addresses are not updated and the website was not updated until recently. NADER wants a brief report from the commissions every 3 to 6 months to know what is happening in the various departments and commissions. BENEDETTO said that effort was made to inform the heads of the commissions that we care about what they are doing, but he received few responses.

During the last UIS General Assembly, some commissions were canceled because they were inactive and did not receive enough votes to support them. EAVIS warned that some commissions are drifting out of the UIS. Work on holding the commissions from separating should be encouraged.

It was approved by all Bureau meeting members that the commissions' work should be officially followed by one of the Vice-Presidents.

### **11- NEW DELEGATES: Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand**

APPROVED

### **12- PROPOSAL FOR “WORKING GROUP FOR ARTS AND LETTERS”**

The President suggested the approval of the proposal for working group for Arts and Letters (submitted by Ian CHANDLER). The Bureau members approved the proposal. Invitation to join this Group will be added in the next UIS Bulletin.

### **13- WEBSITE**

- 1) The website should be for information, simplified, comprehensive and free for all.
- 2) It took some time to make changes and updates since Kalamos-Athens August 2005. Hopefully, such delays will be avoided in the future.

### **14- KARST INFORMATION PORTAL (KIP): PROPOSAL FOR UIS TO BE MEMBER OF THE FOUR-MEMBER STEERING COMMITTEE**

NADER presented the original formal letter inviting the UIS to be one member of the 4-member steering committee for the KIP project. Louise HOSE had discussed her

proposal in Kalamos. She explained about putting up an international portal for scientific data related to caves and karst. NADER, who was invited to the first workshop (January 2006) could not make it due to delays in acquiring a visa; however, Andrej MIHEVC and Peter MATTHEWS joined the workshop.

KLIMCHOUK said the UIS should support this work but make sure that such a project incorporates all the existing similar efforts to avoid duplication. The UIS should take part and make sure that the project serves the UIS objectives as well. The Bureau decided to have KLIMCHOUK as their representative in the KIP project. KLIMCHOUK will be in the USA for the next year as a visiting scholar.

### **15- UIS BUREAU MEETING 2007**

The present venue-possibilities for the 2007 UIS Bureau Meeting:

- FEALC Congress (Aguadilla, Puerto Rico)
- Karst 2007: International Conference on Karst Hydrogeology and Ecosystems (Bowling Green, Kentucky)
- National Cave and Karst Management Symposium (St. Louis, Missouri)
- National Speleological Society Convention (Marengo, Indiana)
- “No-Conference associated” option (Kerrville or San Antonio, Texas)

The majority of the Bureau meeting members decided to go to FEALC (Puerto Rico); the ones who can will continue to Kerrville to check on the progress of the 15<sup>th</sup> ICS.

### **16- 15<sup>th</sup> ICS**

VENI made a PowerPoint presentation regarding the organization of the 15<sup>th</sup> ICS with a committee including its 65 Organizing Committee members. VENI asked if the Bureau want to establish a tradition of opening and closing each ICS by passing on a symbolic object. Bureau members agreed on using a flag of the UIS, white/blue colors with the Logo.

### **17- HALLIDAY’S PROBLEM: WHAT COULD WE LEARN FROM IT?**

In brief, HALLIDAY was not allowed to conduct research in a specific Hawaiian lava-tube – he asked for help. NADER reported that this is an internal national problem where the UIS usually should not interfere. Since HALLIDAY is a special, old contributor to the UIS and the international speleological community, there was an attempt to support him. This did not happen officially but on an individual level and through the Commission on Volcanic Caves and the NSS. Finally, everything was sorted out without any official measures taken, but with many UIS officers individually supporting HALLIDAY. He was asked to buy equipment to monitor CO<sub>2</sub>. He did so and was allowed to conduct his research by the Park Superintendent.

NADER stated that the UIS Bureau and infrastructure have a powerful moral tool and could be asked to support others in cases of problems if tackled in a proper and respectful way. This approach also avoids the use of official UIS decisions.

### **18- SLOVAKS-VENEZUELAN**

Concluding remarks:

- 1) The UIS should work more on the Code of Ethics and have a draft revised copy to revise, discuss, and possibly approve at the 2007 Bureau meeting.

- 2) An official letter will be sent from the Secretary General to both parties, inviting them to participate in a meeting during the FEALC Congress to resolve this problem.
- 3) MERCADO will coordinate a meeting with Mr Urbani and Mr Schmida in Puerto Rico next year.
- 4) Secretary General will reply to Slovak letter and inform the Venezuelan that the issue was discussed.

\* A letter from the UIS Delegate of Venezuela was received and distributed during the Bureau concerning this issue.

### **19- UPCOMING SPELEO-EVENTS**

#### **1) EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF SPELEOLOGY**

The Bureau members did not appreciate that the European Federation of Speleology started the organization of this congress with its current name before requesting or even cooperating with the UIS. Nevertheless, an agreement was reached to wholeheartedly support this event and propose all assistance to the European Federation of Speleology.

#### **2) ESPELEOFORUM**

BOSAK protested against the name used by the Spanish Federation for their event – a copyright protects the title, which is owned by the Czech Speleological Society. After looking at brochures, the President (EAVIS) noted that the title suggested by the Spanish Federation, “EuroSpeleo Forum 2006”, is not the same. Therefore, the UIS has no problems with supporting such event; if the cave conservation themes are respected (e.g. no photographs of caves should be on brochures and no encouragements to conduct such competitions underground).

The President of the Spanish Federation confirms that the organizers would like to make use of the UIS logo and will pay 5.00 US \$ per participant.

### **20- VARIA**

1) The brochure still needs some corrections. Fadi NADER and Julia JAMES will take care of the electronic drafts.

2) BOSAK discussed the ISCA Congress; it is in the middle of October, in Bermuda. Arrigo CIGNA will be in Bermuda and BOSAK proposes that Efrain MERCADO could attend as well representing the UIS Bureau.

3) KLIMCHOUK gave a PowerPoint presentation on the recently established Ukrainian Speleological Institute.

3) MIHEVC gave a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed “Karst Museum” its problems, and information that the museum needs some support from the geological society in Slovenia.

### **20- CLOSURE**

The President closed the 2<sup>nd</sup> session around 13:30 Beirut time by thanking everyone. Also, Secretary General thanked everyone for coming to Beirut.