

UIS BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING

August 4-5, 2007

University of Aguadilla – Puerto Rico

	Session 1, <i>Saturday August 4, 2007 14:00 Puerto Rico time</i>
President	Andrew James EAVIS
Vice-Presidents	Pavel BOSÁK
Secretary General	Fadi NADER
Adjunct Secretaries	Carlos BENEDETTO
	Stein-Erik LAURITZEN
	Efrain MERCADO
	Andrej MIHEVC
	George VENI
	Kyung Sik WOO
Honorary Past-President	
Past-President	Paolo FORTI
	Julia JAMES
	J.-A. LABEGALINI
Delegate Venezuela	Rafael CARRENO
FSUE President	Juan Carlos LOPEZ CASAS
UIS Commission of Cave-Rescue President	Christian DODELIN
Guest	Maria-Alejandra PEREZ
UIS Commission of Cave-Rescue	Bernard URBAIN
FEALC, President	Abel VALE

1) Opening speech of the UIS President

Thank you FEALC for this wonderful congress. Thank you UIS Bureau members for attending this annual Bureau meeting.

Few general remarks for current status and future of UIS:

Capitalize on world heritage successes. Continue forward improvement into the future. Aware of our responsibility and make people around us aware as well of such important issues for protecting caves and conservative behavior (oversampling, etc.).

2) Control of Minutes from Regular Session in 2006 (Beirut, Lebanon)

Done.

3) 15th ICS (Kerrville, USA)

a. Updates (before site-visit; G. Veni)

More than a 70-person team, 1st Circular released, ICS displays traveling in Europe, Latin America, and North America (next stops Sweden 13-15/08/2007; Argentina Feb. 2008; Vercors Aug. 2008), constructing more housing facilities, Gymnasium may be not finished on-time, Sponsorship (already 20,000 US Dollars), Fund-raising activities to support UIS and NSS, US stamp for caves (50% chance), SpeleMedia: Alex Sproul to contact Urs Widmer and Roman Hapka, judges are needed, vendor

registration to sell things is needed in principle but vendors will assume this responsibility (if they are caught, then they will have to pay).

b. UIS Flag (G. Veni)

P. Williams: let the delegates of member-countries contribute and vote on the flag.

S.-E. Lauritzen: there are no indications of caves on any one of the suggested flags.

A. Eavis: Voting on design #4 which is the UIS logo in blue (8 accept, Efrain Mercado voted no, Fadi Nader abstained)

ACTION 1: Flag number 4 is retained (UIS Logo in blue) and will be produced. It will be raised for the first time during the 15th ICS in Kerrville 2009. G. Veni will submit different blue colors to the bureau in order to choose the best color.



c. Visa issues (F. Nader)

Fadi adds a motion or a reminder that we should spare no efforts in helping Latin-Americans cavers to get their visa to attend the 15th ICS, and also Pakistan which became a member country in 2005.

Julia James: early application to visa necessary – early invitation letters (but not too early).

G. Veni: Sponsors will help pay some of the visa costs.

d. Field-trips, etc.

2,000 people are expected. Congress mid-week trips will be different and this means that they will have different expenses and prices.

4) Commission of Cave-Rescue (Christian Dodelin, Bernard Urbain)

The last international meeting in Hungary (May 2007) grouped people from 26 countries and produced a document with recommendations. The commission asks the UIS Bureau to adopt and circulate this agreement within member-countries.

P. Bosak and P. Williams: the way the sentences are written is implying “statements” rather than “recommendations”

A. Eavis: thanked the commission on their work and suggested that this document should be discussed among member-country delegates.

ACTION 2: UIS Bureau thanks the Cave Rescue Commission for their initiative, accepts their proposal, will circulate the document to National Delegates, and will add it to the UIS website.

5) Karst Information Portal Consortium (KIP; G. Veni)

a. Updates (G. Veni)

Peter Matthews has revised the “Organization Principles.” Now it is in process and as soon as the universities approve its final version, UIS and the three other partners can sign this document.

A. Eavis: Perhaps we should read more carefully this document. UIS may not want to be associated to a rather national project.

P. Williams: What about financial reliability/ accountability?

G. Veni: Section 3 (“Organization Principles”) frees UIS from any financial problem.

F. Nader: Since the beginning of this project, the idea of involving the UIS was aimed in order to globalize the KIP and not to have it only American.

P. Forti: I support this project totally. UIS should encourage its members to actively participate in the KIP.

b. Message from A. Klimchouk

Email dated July 20, 2007, in which he explains the relationship between KIP and Speleogenesis, the way they do not have unnecessary overlap, and his support to the KIP:

“...Dear Friends,

As I will not be able to attend the coming UIS Bureau meeting (to my deep regret... but things are too hectic for me now), I'd like to express my full support to George's motion regarding support of KIP and signing the Operational Principles. KIP addresses a very acute need of the cave/karst community, has a strong team of people involved and considerable institutional support in U.S.A. I believe that it is in the best interests of UIS to get involved and help KIP to become a really international project.

Although KIP overlaps with some functions/tasks, which had been pursued during last five years by the Speleogenesis.info site, we are working on coordinating/adjusting this in order to avoid unnecessary competition/duplication and make two sites complementary to each other. This is being realized within the ongoing reconstruction of the Speleogenesis site (separation of Journal and Network parts).

The new Speleogenesis Network section will be launched within a few weeks, hopefully before the UIS Bureau meeting and the Kentucky Conference.

So, please, count on my vote ‘Yes’ for this item of Agenda...”

ACTION 3: UIS Bureau shall sign the documents once they are ready.

6) UIS Code of Ethics

a. Updates (F. Nader)

In the previous months there was a need to re-check a language mistake in the Code of Ethics. The French and German versions were corrected only for language errors and are already published on the UIS website. Julia James and Peter Matthews proposed to review the language mistakes of the English version. Peter had two suggestions about the language review (1- rewrite one sentence; 2- move once sentence from paragraph 4 to paragraph 1) and using bullets and/or numbering for the paragraphs' contents.

ACTION 4: Peter Matthews proposed changes of the Code of Ethics were accepted (except for the movement of sentence from paragraph 4 to paragraph 1 – which was considered a substantial revision and not only to assure the correct language was used).

b. Review and suggestions (J. James, S.-E. Lauritzen)

S.-E. Lauritzen discussed the need to make substantial changes to the Code of Ethics to include also scientists and commercial agencies, who are not cavers and work in caves, and asking them to provide the right contacts and to request permission for material (samples) collection and retrieval, as well as cave use for commercial activities; e.g. show-caves and eco-tourism (this item was to be discussed in the second session of the Bureau meeting).

ACTION 5: A subcommittee is formed by S.-E. Lauritzen, J. James and P. Williams in order to revise the Code of Ethics and think about an extension including scientific research and other matters. A report will be submitted with recommendation at the next UIS Bureau meeting.

c. Slovak-Venezuelan Issue

F. Nader introduced this issue and the official request of the SVE and the UIS delegate of Venezuela to apply the Code of Ethics by not accepting the Slovak paper for publication in the 14th ICS Proceedings. F. Nader explained the situation and all the efforts (as dictated by the minutes of Beirut UIS meeting of 2006) done in vain by the UIS Bureau to find a solution for this problem. He warned that this type of issue is wasting time for the UIS and should be avoided through internal action within member countries and respectful caving activities.

Rafael Carreno (Delegate of Venezuela) explained his point of view during the meeting and expressed ways of improving international relationships among caving organizations.

ACTION 6: The UIS will not publish the Slovak article in the Proceedings of the 14th ICS following point 5 of the Code of Ethics.

7) UIS Prizes (J. James)

The UIS prizes include three categories (Posters, Greatest Explorations, Books). Julia James discussed the three prizes and recommended that for the time being only the Posters Prize will be prepared as there were no major new greatest exploration and the book prizes is also too problematic.

ACTION 7: The UIS will promote the Posters Prize (worth of 250 US Dollars) and until further notice the other prizes will be discontinued.

8) UIS Brochure (J. James)

J. James had made corrections and updated the UIS Brochure (a copy was distributed to all Bureau members participating in the meeting). Those who think that eventual changes – editing – should be made, will convey those remarks to J. James before tomorrow (2nd Session). Then, the modified text will go to A. Eavis who will take charge of printing the Brochures.

ACTION 8: A. Eavis will take the UIS Brochure, after J. James hands him the final version (tomorrow), and will print 10,000 copies.

9) Atlas of Great Caves of the World + Comm. News (P. Kambesis, J.-L. Membrado)

The meeting with Pat Kambesis, Jose-Luiz Membrado, Andy Eavis and Fadi Nader concerning this issue, took place in the morning and the action was prepared before the UIS Bureau meeting (as some of the people needed to leave Aguadilla in the afternoon of that day).

Basically, Jose-Luiz will re-activate and coordinate the UIS Commission on the deepest and longest caves and Pat and her colleagues will work on the Atlas which will be with the collaboration of the UIS Commission.

ACTION 9: P. Kambesis and her colleagues will work on the Atlas of Greatest Caves with the collaboration of the UIS Commission on the World Deepest and Longest Caves (coordinated by J.-L. Membrado) hoping to publish the book before the 15th ICS – Kerrville 2009.

10) Previous meetings and events

a. FSUE (Sevilla – Spain, 2006)

The main resulting observation was that “better communication” is needed (G. Veni). A report of the Sevilla meeting was distributed.

b. FSUE (Iserlohn – Germany, 2007) + meeting with the German Federation

F. Nader: During that meeting, we discussed openly all questionable items and we reached the conclusion that UIS and FSUE complete and do not compete each other and that no duplication of efforts between UIS and FSUE should occur (e.g. commissions). In addition the UIS Code of Ethics should be promoted everywhere and as much as possible.

F. Nader distributed the report of the Iserlohn meeting.

P. Bosak: The FSUE does not represent all European countries. For example the Czech Federation is not part of the FSUE.

c. Relationship with FSUE (Juan-Carlos Lopez Casas)

Juan-Carlos Lopez addressed the UIS Bureau on two main points:

- Relations between UIS and FSUE:
FSUE in no case represent a danger to the UIS, and does not aim to occupy its place. UIS and FSUE are different organizations with different actors with the same aim: Speleology.
- Joint project between UIS and FSUE:
The Spanish Federation and the Author would like to yield the rights for the edition of a book aiming to teach children about speleology in different languages. The Spanish Federation's initiative is to have this book project as a joint venture between the FSUE and the UIS (c/o UIS Department of Education/ M. Messonyer).

J.-A. Labegalini proposed that this book would also be free of copyrights to be translated in more languages by other member-countries.

J.-C. Lopez will send first a copy of the book to F. Nader.

d. ISCA meeting

E. Mercado talked about the last ISCA meeting in Bermuda (last year) where he, Hubert Trimmel, and Arrigo Cigna represented the UIS. A new president (David Summers) was elected who is a very active person. D. Summers attended the 2nd Session of the current UIS Bureau meeting (tomorrow; see below).

A. Eavis noted that we have the opportunity for very good relationship with ISCA at the present moment and that we should be actively present in the next ISCA meeting.

11) Upcoming meetings and events

a. Baltic Speleology Congress + G. Assembly of FSUE

ACTION 10: F. Nader will ask Urs Widmer to represent the UIS at this congress.

b. European Congress of Speleology (Vercors – France, August 23-30; 2008)

A. Eavis, F. Nader and most probably G. Veni will be present in that meeting.

F. Nader suggested that several UIS Commissions can plan their annual meetings during that congress (e.g. Commission of Deepest and Longest Caves, Commission of Cave-Rescue, etc.).

END OF SESSION 1

UIS BUREAU MEETING – AGUADILLA, AUG. 4/ 2007 – SESSION 2

	Session 2, <i>Sunday August 5, 2007 9:00 Puerto Rico time</i>
President	Andrew James EAVIS
Vice-Presidents	Pavel BOSAK
Secretary General	Fadi NADER
Adjunct Secretaries	Carlos BENEDETTO
	Stein-Erik LAURITZEN
	Efrain MERCADO
	Andrej MIHEVC
	George VENI
	Kyung Sik WOO
Honorary Past-President	
Past-President	Paolo FORTI
	Julia JAMES
	J.-A. LABEGALINI
ISCA President	David SUMMERS

12) Workflow and Efficiency of the UIS Bureau (F. Nader)

a. Follow-up of Commissions – need for good organization (Task of VP)

F. Nader pointed out that Bureau members still react very slowly to Bureau business and that after the Beirut meeting, he was sending e-mails and expecting replies before set deadlines to the Secretary's address alone, so he could make a summary and send one conclusive email afterwards. Instead, e-mails are not replied to in time and other mass e-mails must follow that create considerable confusion. Finally, the Secretary cannot follow-up on sporadic e-mails and make conclusive statements, which results in considerable frustration and extra effort.

Additionally, some e-mails require a very fast response for decisions which cannot be made solely by the Secretary. In such cases, if the people in charge cannot convey a rapid response to the Secretary, he is obliged to make big decision on his own.

A third point raised by F. Nader was related to the many obligations like following up with commissions, delegates, the website etc... which he has to take care of currently. Help is needed. Coordinating with the commissions is the job of the Vice-President of Administration and should be done by him or delegated by him to other members of the UIS Bureau. This will certainly help the Secretary to attend to other duties.

J. James: we should at least acknowledge the receipt of emails from F. Nader.

P. Bosak: Same issues are repeating, like the one where the Secretary General feels that he is alone. We should limit electronic correspondence. We have always had problems with delegates; not sure if A. Klimchouk will have time to follow-up with commissions as his time is limited. Propose that one Adj. Secretary takes this responsibility.

P. Bosak noted that in the previous meeting (Beirut, 2006) he had proposed to treat commissions as Ad Hoc for 4 years before confirming them as commissions in order to see if they are continuously active. Some commissions should be cancelled.

S.-E. Lauritzen: Propose to create a blog/thread to have all correspondence without sending emails. Gmail is also sending spam and should not be used.

J. James: Always most of the work lands on only a few people in the Bureau, yet the current Bureau has the greatest potential for work because it is a very active one. In order to reach out to the cavers of member countries, it is better is to correspond with national bodies rather than delegates.

A. Eavis: Communication should be with National Delegates, National Bodies and the Press (all should be on UIS mailing list).

ACTION 11: F. Nader will maintain contact with the commissions and will discuss with A. Klimchouk about follow-up and to eventually prepare a proposal for the next UIS Bureau meeting.

ACTION 12: F. Nader will coordinate with the Informatics Commission about the possibility of having a blog for UIS Bureau Communications. UIS emails will have titles that start with “UIS”; those that are very important will have “Urgent” and those that are only for information will have “For Info” in their title.

b. Commission on Longest and Deepest Caves (New President)

Jose-Luiz Membrado will act as a coordinator of this commission to revive it.

c. Ice Caves Working Group

This is a working group (headed by Aurel Persoiu – Emil Racovita Institute of Speleology) within the Commission of Glacier Caves and Karst in Polar Regions (headed by Adolfo Eraso).

d. UIS Website and Informatics Commission

The Informatics Commission requested acceptance of electronic voting and internet policies proposed in the Beirut Bureau meeting (2006).

F. Nader informed the Bureau about the heavy work load this commission is faced with, about the problem that occurred with the UIS website and its server this year, and the fast reaction and efficient response by the commission members.

e. UIS Bulletin

P. Bosak: in order to print 350 copies we are faced with a lot of postage costs.

A. Eavis: proposed to receive the 350 copies and to distribute them himself.

F. Nader: no need for hardcopies anymore.

P. Bosak: Some libraries still demand hardcopies

J. James: Libraries are switching to electronic references and can print them whenever needed.

ACTION 13: P. Bosak will finish Bulletin # 51-2 for 2005 and 2006 by August 18, 2007. He will print 350 copies and send them to A. Eavis. In these bulletins it will be clearly stated that no hardcopies will be provided for future issues. F. Nader will take over the Bulletin for 2007 and onward, which will be sent to national bodies and delegates as a PDF.

13) UIS/ISCA

a. Status of cooperation between UIS/ISCA

UIS and ISCA have a Memorandum of Understanding, which Pavel Bosak showed to the Bureau members. F. Nader introduced the request and invited David Summers (new president of ISCA) to this UIS Bureau meeting.

b. Report of Efrain Mercado on last ISCA meeting

Earlier E. Mercado had informed the Bureau members about the last ISCA meeting (see above).

c. Brain-storming for concrete examples of projects and means of collaboration between ISCA and UIS (D. Summers).

David Summers started by exposing the many problems show caves and ISCA are facing. He pointed out that he would like to strengthen the collaboration between ISCA and UIS. Indeed, both organizations would like to portray caves as important educational environments. He stressed his new approach by getting all show caves (irrespective of their status and significance) to join ISCA in order to develop “bad” show caves and turn them into sustainable projects.

A. Eavis: Thanked D. Summers for his initiative. “We are more than happy to have you here among us in this meeting and to work on good collaborative relationship”.

J. James: Show caves are also very good places for research.

G. Veni: If well done, show caves protect the caves and provide good education means.

S.-E. Lauritzen introduced two points:

* Do you have some sort of code for people who would like to develop show caves? (A question to D. Summers; to which the latter replied “no” as management standards turned out to be very “difficult business”).

* If collaboration is foreseen between ISCA and UIS, why not let the UIS develop a system or approval code for show-cave development, in this way UIS could become a tool requested by ISCA in order to approve the development of show caves. A side point is the suggestion that any facilities installed inside caves must not be permanent and could be removed.

D. Summers: UIS and ISCA should be partners “side by side” so the idea of UIS giving approvals is not good as it implies UIS “having to tell what ISCA should do.”

E. Mercado: ISCA has a lot of experience in other aspects that could be interesting also for UIS, e.g. cave lighting systems.

F. Nader: Suggested to carve UIS/ISCA relationship as a working relationship where UIS provides the support and data to ISCA and ISCA supports UIS on a financial level similar to the national caving bodies and local show caves. He gave as an example the relationship between the Speleo-Club du Liban (SCL) in Lebanon and the local Jeita Cave – the latter show cave supports financially, at least on a partial basis, the research and exploration work of the national caving body.

D. Summers: Pure/fundamental sciences and research projects do not necessarily interest ISCA. A line should be drawn and usually in ISCA Conferences, a good deal of scientific papers is reduced.

K.S. Woo gave some examples from Korea, where cave developers did not listen to the comments of experienced speleologists and had all infrastructures in the show caves became damaged due to flooding. This demonstrates how much collaboration is needed.

- He suggested that the show caves should be equipped with cave museums.

S.-E. Lauritzen: Suggests that ISCA finds a solution for old caves that are not anymore economical; i.e. how to close a show cave?

D. Summers: In business terms, a cave must be economically viable otherwise the show cave goes bankrupt. Installing a gate is very important to protect the cave.

F. Nader: Perhaps UIS could prepare impact assessment reports to ISCA and be considered as a consultant?

D. Summers: ISCA is not yet ready for that; we need more time.

P. Bosak suggested going back to the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding between ISCA and UIS. He explained that UIS can provide good experience and consultation to ISCA. UIS has a department for cave protection, which should always be in contact with ISCA.

ACTION 14: UIS will continue to actively collaborate and build a strong relationship with ISCA, especially on the level of the Department of Protection and other commissions.

14) Reglements Interieurs (Finalization) – to be completed since Beirut's meeting
APPROVAL FOR ALL CHANGES MADE BY P. BOSAK

ACTION 15: Approval for all changes on Internal Regulations (last by P. Bosak), request to get the latest version published on the UIS website by F. Nader.

- P. Bosak is responsible on archiving all Bureau Data in Postojna.

P. Williams asked if it is really necessary to send all electronic documents to P. Bosak.

J. James is reluctant to send a box of hardcopy material to the archives

Electronic documents to be archived are those that are about external correspondence and do not include the internal Bureau correspondence (which are archived by the Secretary General F. Nader).

K.S. Woo suggested saving all electronic data on an external hard disk.

F. Nader asked who is supposed to write official UIS letters.

P. Bosak replied (with the approval of the audience) that only the President and the Secretary General are to write official letters.

J. James suggested buying a 200 Megabyte external hard disk for archiving electronic data by F. Nader

ACTION 16: The UIS Treasurer is asked to refund F. Nader the cost of purchasing a 200 Megabyte external hard disk in order to store UIS electronic archives. F. Nader, P. Bosak, and A. Mihevc are requested to take care of UIS archives.

15) 14th ICS (Kalamos-Athens) Pending issues

a. Payment status (P. Bosak)

DONE

b. Proceedings (A. Eavis)

The draft proceedings are finished, we should receive a copy here in Aguadilla.

The organizers were late although they had the money to produce the book, simply because they were waiting for additional funding in order to be able to post the books.

G. Veni: will there be any kind of reviewing?

A. Eavis: No. At this stage we cannot control the quality of the proceedings.

F. Nader: we should nevertheless ask the 14th ICS organizers to omit the article about the Slovak explorations in Venezuela as agreed during the first Session of this meeting (A. Eavis will be in charge in informing the organizers and making sure that this article is dismissed from the proceedings).

16) Finance update (P. Bosak)

a. Current status

P. Bosak updated the financial status of the UIS by stating that the UIS has merged all assets into ONE account with two currencies (Euros and US Dollars) in Postojna (Slovenia).

An accounting company in Postojna (Slovenia) was hired and submitted the 1st accounting report).

The fiscal year of 2006 was closed by 17 March 2007 with the following results: about 52,941 Slovenian currency, 11,000 Euros and 39,989 US Dollars.

There is a request to support the upcoming IJS. The financial needs may go up to 5,000 US Dollars.

ACTION 17: Financial report of P. Bosak is approved. P. Bosak will send a short summary of the financial report to F. Nader (Secretary).

ACTION 18: The UIS Treasure (P. Bosak) asked to pay up to 5,000 US Dollars depending on the needs of IJS for the printing of the upcoming issue.

b. Modes for payments of member-countries

Cash and/or bank transfers only (a fill-in paper for cash payment was provided by P. Bosak).

A. Mihevc: the costs of 500 Euros per year are obligatory in case we need to establish credit-card payments.

P. Bosak: Better not to have credit-card payments and the best way is to pay 4-years at one time and via bank transfer. This must be the message to delegates of member countries.

ACTION 19: Request that member countries pay their fees by bank transfer. If the fees are 50 US Dollars per year, the delegates are encouraged to pay for more than one year. If cash payment is nevertheless necessary, the delegates must use the cash-money form provided by the UIS Treasurer (P. Bosak). These details will be published on UIS website and in the UIS Bulletin.

17) UIS/UNESCO

a. Cave-protection themes and new developments (P. Williams)

P. Williams introduced this subject and circulated a document among UIS Bureau members reporting his latest activities.

b. IUCN Thematic Studies on World Heritage Karst Landscapes and Features (P. Williams)

P. Williams explained how he got involved with the IUCN for this type of activity (Thematic Studies). He had stressed his willingness to take this issue only if IUCN accepts that UIS gets involved. He explained that it will be difficult in the future to have more karst sites on the WHS List as the new candidates should be the “best of the best,” and coupled with positive, robust, comparative studies. He nevertheless proposed to ask delegates of member countries to notify the UIS Bureau about possible candidates to the WHS List.

A. Eavis asked if it is possible to circulate the current list of World Heritage Sites for karst.

ACTION 20: Julia James will circulate the list of the protected World Heritage Sites for karst after contacting Elery Hamilton-Smith.

c. World Heritage Sites (Jeju Island; Kyung Sik Woo)

K.S. Woo expressed on the behalf of the Koreans the appreciation for the letter of support written by F. Nader and A. Eavis. He explained that the WHS committee, after deliberating its decision, mentioned and acknowledged the UIS Bureau and the Commission of Vulcanospeleology. This means that they took into consideration the opinion of the UIS. This also means that we have to be considerate in sending letters of support.

A. Eavis: External experts and old members of the UIS were asked for consultation before and during the preparation of the letter of support to the Jeju Island.

P. Williams drafted a congratulatory letter to be sent to each of the winners of WHS status.

ACTION 21: Secretary General (F. Nader) will send congratulation letters to the new winners of the WHS: 1) Shilin (Stone Forest), 2) Libo (Cone Karst), 3) Wulong (Tiankeng), and 4) Jeju island

d. Cave protection issues – commercial cave tours (S.-E. Lauritzen)

S.-E. Lauritzen explained that this point is linked to the Code of Ethics. The UIS has to react as there is an accelerated use of caves for recreation, booming of adventurous travel agencies, and also scientific abuses. Some scientists who are not cavers are not concerned about caves. Therefore, the UIS should influence and promote for conservative use of caves especially in small countries and/or those having a small amount of karst.

S.-E. Lauritzen expressed his opinion that “for any activity, the cave itself should only be the focus.” This in his opinion leads to sustainability; otherwise the cave will suffer. He suggested that if the UIS role is not to control activities related to caves, at least it must be a pioneer in establishing standards – a code that advocates the interest of caves.

He also added that UIS should discourage activities that use of caves for competitions; this type of activity should be allowed only in artificial cavities such as mines.

S.-E. Lauritzen recommended that the NSS changes its slogan that states “leave nothing but footprints” and requested that rescue training should be restricted to a few caves only in order to minimize cave damage.

J. James: suggested to turn the Code of Ethics into a comprehensive document (work needs to be done on this level within the subcommittee assigned above for the review of the Code of Ethics).

D. Summers: Show caves have management guidelines which could be the liaison between ISCA scientific committee and UIS.

J. James sees that the cave management should be left to the cave managers without interference from UIS.

G. Veni suggested that the “new” Code of Ethics should be prepared before next UIS Bureau meeting next year.

ACTION 22: A subcommittee will be formed by S.-E. Lauritzen, J. James and P. Williams and will work on reviewing the Code of Ethics and providing an “Extension of the Code of Ethics.” This must be achieved before the 2008 UIS Bureau meeting.

e. Meeting at the UNESCO Paris 20 July 2007 (F. Nader, Jessica Cohen)

F. Nader reported about his meeting at UNESCO on the 20th of July after getting the support of the Lebanese Delegation for the UIS’s request for acknowledgement by the UNESCO. He explained that UIS can work on three different levels for cooperation and collaborative work with UNESCO which will grant special relationship between the two organizations. These are (together with the contact persons):

- Social and Human Sciences Sector: German Solinis, **Maria Helena Henriques-Mueller**
- Natural Sciences Sector: T. Marjoram; **Robert Missotten** (IGCP, Global Earth Observation Section)
- Culture Sector: **G. Poussin**.

F. Nader also informed Bureau members that since he is settled in Paris, he is already in continuous contact with UNESCO officials and that they already requested that UIS get involved actively in the projects set by UNESCO for next year within the framework of the designation of 2008 as the year of Planet Earth.

F. Nader explained that in order to develop a relationship with UNESCO, the following documents are needed: Status, Legal acknowledgment, List of members, Report of activities, list of potential collaborative projects (e.g. IGCP/IUGS, etc.). These documents should be sent with a request for affiliation with the IUGS in order to optimize chances of success. The proposed project must be the “best of the best” and it is advisable to start with only one proposal.

P. Williams: UIS could propose a project on “Cave world climate record” and S.-E. Lauritzen could take such project in charge.

P. Bosak felt that the title of the proposed project could be problematic as similar projects may have been already launched.

ACTION 23: F. Nader will proceed with the paperwork for collaboration with UNESCO. A. Mihevc will provide the needed legal documents and S.-E. Lauritzen will provide an abstract for the proposed project on “Cave World Climate Record”.

18) Proposed projects:

a. UIS Newsletter project (F. Nader)

F. Nader proposed a project to run a UIS electronic newsletter.

A. Eavis expects that this will dilute the Bulletin and together with the other Bureau members found that this idea is not practical.

The proposal was rejected.

b. UIS Book (F. Nader) – this item was discussed earlier when J.-A. Labegalini was still present.

F. Nader proposed creating a book about UIS history and that a subcommittee take care of preparing such a book, suggesting involvement by J.-A. Labegalini (who would gather all data), Hubert Trimmel (who would review the manuscript), Julia James (who would edit the manuscript), and, if needed, F. Nader to coordinate the project.

J. James requested that the manuscript should be ready by the next bureau meeting so that she can edit it and get it ready before the 15th ICS in 2009.

P. Bosak suggested contacting all Past Presidents to get more information, and that they must be involved in reviewing the text (e.g. Adolfo Eraso).

J.-A. Labegalini said that he has had this idea since 2002 and is willing to work on it.

ACTION 24: Jose Ayrton Labegalini will coordinate and edit a book on the history of the UIS. The deadline for the draft manuscript is the next UIS Bureau meeting in 2008.

c. New international expedition to support cavers (Iran, 2008; F. Nader)

F. Nader introduced this subject by informing Bureau members about his first contact with Iranian cavers and his proposal to launch an International Expedition to support and help Iranian cavers who are desperately in need for cave-rescue and survey trainings. He explained that the proposed expedition will take place in September or October 2008 and will be similar to the International Speleology Expedition to Tanzania (ISET) under the auspices of the UIS which helped and supported the newly established national caving organization in Tanzania (TNST; Tanzania National Speleological Trust).

F. Nader asked the UIS Bureau accept this activity under the auspices of the UIS (the use of the UIS logo on webpages, etc.).

P. Bosak requested that other clubs (not only that of Teheran) should be invited to participate in the expedition.

ACTION 25: The UIS Bureau accepted this expedition to be under the auspices of the UIS.

d. Others (Paolo Forti)

The Italian Federation of Speleology proposes to provide 50 PowerPoint presentations (with more than 1000 slides) about all aspects of speleology to be considered as a UIS – Italian Federation joint project and will be aimed for distribution free of charge to cavers in the 15th ICS – electronically or on CD. In order to translate the PowerPoint files into different languages, UIS help and support is requested.

ACTION 26: The UIS Bureau grants full support to this project, to provide the UIS logo for use, and offer revision and translation support if needed.

19) Varia

a. BBS

F. Nader will contact P. Deriaz to follow-up development on the BBS level and to see how UIS Bureau can help in this matter (if needed).

b. Vjetrenica – Popovo Polje (BOSNIA – HERZEGOVINA)

F. Nader introduced this subject and the request of Mulaomerovic for the support of UIS to the candidacy of the Vjetrenica for the World Heritage Site list in order to protect the cave, polje, and the related fauna.

P. Williams drafted a letter to Mulaomerovic asking access to the proposal for WHS List. “We need to see that proposal first so we can see how to help.”

Mihevc: “There are more than 80 species in the cave system, some of which were first discovered in that cave; besides the whole polje needs to be protected.” Mihevc also said that the whole area around the cave is being mined.

ACTION 27: Secretary General (F. Nader) will send the letter prepared by P. Williams.

c. Ilsu Dam (Turkey)

F. Nader informed the Bureau members about the problems of the proposed new Ilsu Dam in Turkey, as reported by the German Federation of Speleology.

The Bureau members found that any action must be in cooperation with the Turkish cavers.

ACTION 28: Secretary General (F. Nader) will contact A. Klimchouk and the Turkish cavers to ask for recommendations and advice.

d. Alpin Untertage - IUCN

F. Nader reported on this upcoming event and the request of having data on IUCN. This event will take place in Ramsau (Germany) between 9 and 11 November 2007.

e. Situation of A. Mihevc

A. Mihevc will not be eligible to serve as a UIS Adjunct Secretary after his current term on the Bureau is complete because of term limits. However, according to Article 10 of the Internal Regulations, he can be invited to continue serving as the UIS bank

representative after his term has expired if no one from Slovenia is elected to the next UIS Bureau.

20) Location for UIS Bureau 2008 meeting:

Two possibilities were offered to the UIS Bureau, both of which are important events:

-France (Vercors, 23-30/08/2008; FSUE Congress)

-Korea (Jeju Island, 1-5/09/2008; Vulcanospeleology Conference)

The Bureau decided to have its next annual in conjunction with the Vulcanospeleology Conference in Jeju Island (Korea): tentative dates are 6-7/09/2008.

A. Eavis, F. Nader, and probably G. Veni will attend also the FSUE Congress (Vercors, France).

21- CLOSURE and KERRVILLE TRIP

The President closed the 2nd session around 17:00 Puerto Rico time by thanking everyone.

A delegation consisting of A. Eavis, P. Bosak and F. Nader went to Kerrville together with G. Veni in order to meet the organizers of the 15th ICS and to inspect the venue. This trip took place between 7 and 10 August 2008. It was a very positive trip with fruitful discussions leading to closer cooperation.

The University was visited on the 8th of August and all facilities were inspected together with the organizers. On the 9th of August F. Nader and P. Bosak together with G. Veni and some organizers visited the show cave Natural Bridge Caverns and some other karst features near San Antonio.