

UIS BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING
June 12-13, 2010
Karst Research Institute of Slovenia – Postojna (SLOVENIA)

	ATTENDANCE: <i>Saturday and Sunday, June 12-13, 2010</i>
President	Andrew James EAVIS
Vice-President Administration	George VENI
Vice-President Operations	Christian DODELIN
Secretary General	Fadi NADER
Adjunct Secretaries	Giovanni BADINO Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS Alexander KLIMCHOUK Stein-Erik LAURITZEN Efrain MERCADO Paul WILLIAMS Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA
Honorary & Past-Presidents	Arrigo CIGNA J.-A. LABEGALINI
Bureau members not in attendance	Kyung Sik WOO
Organizer of the 16th ICS (Brno, Czech Republic)	Zdeněk Motyčka

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

Andy Eavis thanked all participants for coming to Postojna and praised the almost complete turnout for the 2010 annual bureau meeting. He informed the Bureau that Kyung Sik Woo has apologized for not being able to come to the Bureau Meeting. Andy Eavis thanked Nadja Zupan Hajna and the SAZU Karst Research Institute for hosting the Bureau meeting. He welcomed as well Mr. Zdeněk Motyčka who represents the 16th ICS organizing committee and attended the meeting.

The Agenda of the meeting was then approved by the present Bureau members.

2) Approval of Minutes from Regular Sessions in 2009 (Kerrville, Texas - USA)

Andy Eavis proposed a motion to accept the minutes of the preceding meeting that was held in Kerrville (Texas, USA) in 2009. Fadi NADER seconded this motion and it was passed by the Bureau.

Together with the minutes, the list of decisions/actions was previously published on the UIS Bureau Forum and sent by emails to Bureau members. This list was reviewed and updated by the Bureau members.

3) Previous meetings and events

a. Interim UIS Bureau Executive meetings (Paris and Postojna, Slovenia – 3 to 6 December, 2008);

Andy Eavis informed the Bureau about two executive meetings that were held in Postojna (Slovenia) and in Paris involving the President, VPs (George Veni via Skype), the General Secretary and Nadja Zupan Hajna (Adjunct Secretary/Acting Treasurer) between the congress in Kerrville and this Bureau meeting. These meetings had specific objectives related to the financial status of the UIS and needed the Bureau's presence in Postojna.

Andy Eavis asked the Bureau members if they agree on having such executive meetings in order to improve the reactivity of the Bureau and deal efficiently with certain pending issues. Paul Williams said that these types of meetings are indeed a good idea and the remaining members agreed as well.

b. Hungary Meeting (+ FSE Bureau meeting);

Christian Dodelin who was present at this meeting and represented the UIS Bureau at the FSE Bureau meeting had previously submitted a full report (in French) concerning these events. He verbally reported that during the FSE Bureau meeting two main points were discussed in relevance to UIS:

(1) Database for International Expeditions (proposed as a joint UIS/FSE project by Manuel Freire); and

(2) International Speleo Competition proposed by Juan-Carlos Lopez Casas – which did not get a successful reaction as it was said that in Europe only four countries would be interested in such activities.

Christian Dodelin also reported that 15 countries from the European Union were present at the General Assembly (with about 50 persons).

c. Dachstein Centenary and the 4th Ice Cave Workshop (8-11 June 2010; Obertaun - Austria);

George Veni attended the 4th International Ice Cave Workshop and made a verbal report.

Andy Eavis, Christian Dodelin, Efrain Mercado, Fadi Nader, George Veni, Nadja Zupan Hajna, Stein-Erik Lauritzen, Arrigo Cigna, Hubert Trimmel and Jose-Ayrton Labegalini attended the Dachstein Centenary, which was very well organized. Hubert Trimmel had kindly made all organization to invite members of the UIS Bureau and past presidents.

d. Iran (14-15 February 2010; Tehran);

Nadja Zupan Hajna represented the UIS at a conference in Tehran (Iran). She presented to the audience the UIS and invited the Iranian karst scientists and speleologists to become part of the UIS.

4) Organization updates concerning the 16th ICS – Brno 2013 (Zdeněk Motyčka)

Mr. Zdeněk Motyčka informed the UIS Bureau about the updates concerning the organization of the upcoming 16th ICS in Brno (Czech Republic) in 2013. His verbal report included seven important steps that summarize the work that has been done since the previous ICS in Kerrville (July, 2009) and projects the future perspectives.

During a first step and right after the 15th ICS, the organizers of the 16th ICS started by informing Czech cavers and building up motivation. The second step consisted of setting up the 16th ICS Organizing Committee, which is a legal independent association with Pavel Bosak as President and Zdeněk Motyčka as Vice-President (among other very well known Czech cavers on board). Thus, a corporate body (unattached to the Czech Speleological Society) with the name “Speleo2013” including about 20 persons (including some prominent business men) is established in order to enjoy flexibility and efficiency, especially with respect to financial matters. The first budget was subsequently proposed and work is still undergoing. In addition, the website has been finalized (after review for English by George Veni) and will be published online by the end of June 2010.

Mr. Zdeněk Motyčka informed the UIS Bureau that the dates of the 16th ICS have been defined. The congress will take place in Brno from the 21st to the 28th of July 2013.

Finally, Mr. Motyčka shared with the UIS Bureau some of the next steps programmed for the upcoming period. These included:

- a. Completing the Organizing Committee (meeting every 3 or 4 months)
- b. Building up relationships with public establishments
- c. Website launch and first circular (mailing of hardcopy with option for receipt of further circulars exclusively in electronic form)
- d. Budget construction and negotiating further support (more precise budget)
- e. Important Dates:
 - i. January 2011: call for excursions
 - ii. April 2011 (see below): meeting of Organizing Committee with UIS Bureau
 - iii. July 2011: publication of the First Circular

5) UIS Bureau 2011 meeting in the Czech Republic) (Zdeněk Motyčka)

Mr. Zdeněk Motyčka laid out three different options for the upcoming UIS Bureau meeting in 2011, which is supposed to be the Czech Republic (host of the 16th ICS in 2013) 2 years after the upcoming Bureau meeting. The fact that no important scientific symposia or meetings in the Czech Republic are scheduled for 2011 was also discussed and somehow orients the proposed options.

Option 1: Meeting coinciding with the annual convention of the Czech Speleology Society. Arrival on the 14th of April in Brno, then attending the convention (April 16) and leaving on the 17th of April.

Option 2: (Extended Option 1) Meeting combined with the convention of the Czech Speleology Society. Arrival on the 13th of April (UIS Bureau meeting in Brno on 14th afternoon and the 15th of April), checking facilities in Brno and then joining the convention on the 16th followed by excursions to caves until the 18th of April. Departure on the 19th of April.

Option 3: Arrange the UIS Bureau meeting together with the 16th ICS Organization Committee on another date with no combined speleo-events.

Mr. Zdeněk Motyčka informed the UIS Bureau members that they will be invited (free of charge) to this upcoming meeting. The organizing committee will fund the airport pick up, hotel accommodation, dinners and fees for convention.

DECISION 1: The upcoming annual UIS Bureau meeting will take place on Thursday 14th (afternoon) and Friday 15th of April 2011, in Brno (Czech Republic). The Bureau will visit the facilities for the 16th ICS before the meeting (13th and morning of 14th, April 2011). The meeting will be combined with the Czech SpeleoForum (15-17 April, 2011). Visiting caves will be organized on Monday 18th of April, 2011.

6) ICS Guidelines – Updates (George Veni)

Following the 15th ICS (Kerrville, TX – USA; 2009), George Veni updated the "Instructions and General Recommendations for Organizers of International Congresses of Speleology (ICS)", as agreed on during the previous Bureau meeting. The updated version of this document has been reviewed by some other members of the UIS Bureau.

DECISION 2: The UIS Bureau approved the changes made on the "Instructions and General Recommendations for Organizers of International Congress of Speleology (ICS)".

7) Possible conflict with FSE meeting in 2013

Andy Eavis introduced the subject of FSE meetings and possible conflict with the upcoming 16th ICS in 2013.

Mr. Zdeněk Motyčka expressed his concerns about the fact that the FSE is planning a European SpeleoForum in 2013. He reminded the UIS Bureau members that there are still problems between the Czech Speleological Society and the FSE related to the use of "SpeleoForum" for such events, as this title has been used in the Czech Republic for many years before the first European SpeleoForum. Besides, concerns remain for losing participants at the 16th ICS if another major speleo event is planned for the same year.

Andy Eavis reminded everyone that there will be no European Congress in 2013, the upcoming congress is scheduled for 2016 (in the UK). However, the FSE organizes every year a relatively small-scale meeting (the European SpeleoForum), during which the FSE Bureau and General Assembly meet.

Fadi Nader asked whether the UIS and the organizers of the 16th ICS could invite the FSE Bureau and General Assembly to convene during the ICS in Brno, and therefore for the year 2013 – exceptionally because of the ICS being in Europe, no European SpeleoForum would be planned?

DECISION 3: The Bureau offers facilities for the FSE to run its General Assembly and Bureau meeting at Brno in 2013 during the 16th ICS.

ACTION 1: Fadi Nader (upon the approval of Andy Eavis) will send a letter to FSE to invite them to plan their General Assembly and Bureau meeting for the year 2013 at the 16th ICS in Brno (Czech Republic).

8) UIS/UNESCO (Fadi Nader)

Fadi Nader summarized the actual situation concerning the International Council for Science (ICSU) application. One of the Geobodies of ICSU expressed some concerns about having the UIS as a new Associate Member. Paul Williams drafted a letter of reply that was conveyed to ICSU by Fadi Nader and was well received. At this stage and before the next meeting of the Executive Bureau of ICSU (October 2010 – deadline for meeting agenda: end of August 2010), contact must be re-established in order to push again the application of the UIS.

ACTION 2: Fadi Nader will contact ICSU (in July 2010) and ask about the status of the UIS application.

9) UIS Code of Ethics (Stein-Erik Lauritzen)

Stein-Erik Lauritzen informed the Bureau about the progress concerning the work on the new version of the UIS Code of Ethics. The document will be ready by September 2010, and published as a working document on the website while awaiting to be voted on in the upcoming General Assembly (during the 16th ICS, Brno – 2013). Meanwhile, the delegates will be asked to send in their comments and suggestions on the working document.

The FSE has approved the applicability of the UIS Code of Ethics.

ACTION 3: Stein-Erik Lauritzen will finalize the working document of the UIS Code of Ethics by September 2010.



Home of the UIS: The Slovenian Karst Institute SAZU

10) Commission Reports (George Veni)

George Veni, VP-Administration, reported on the activities of the commissions and working groups. He highlighted the fact that many commission presidents were delighted by the fact that they were contacted on the behalf of the Bureau. Still, some other commissions did not respond at all to the continuous emails and requests for information.

In the following lines, those commissions that responded positively to George – or those that are active and with no major problems – will not be mentioned. During the meeting the updates from all commissions and working groups have been discussed, but, here, only those commissions that require attention and further actions will be presented.

a. Commission on Techniques

Andy Eavis maintained his previous statement that he knows somebody who could be an ideal leader for the Commission on Techniques (who is able to revive this important commission). However, due to many obligations and lack of time this person could not be approached until now.

Giovanni Badino proposed to change the title of the Commission to "Advances in Caving Techniques"

Fadi Nader suggested that Christian Dodelin asks Bernard Tourte (France) if the latter would be interested to lead this commission.

Alexander Klimchouk also proposed that George Veni invites Mark Passerby (USA) if he would be equally interested in that vacant position.

DECISION 4: Both VPs (George Veni and Christian Dodelin) will try to find a solutions for this commission which will be called ("Advances in Caving Techniques). Both potential candidates (Tourte and Passerby) will be approached in order to revive this commission.

b. Commissions whose leaders do not respond

George Veni listed one department and four commissions which never replied to his emails and contacts. These are:

- Department of Education
- Commission on Great Caves
- Commission on Hydrothermal Karst
- Commission of Cave Diving
- Commission on History of Speleology

George Veni asked the Bureau members for suggestions on what he could do when the presidents of such commission do not reply to his emails. Fadi Nader expressed his surprise because he knows that the Department of Education and the Commission of Cave Diving were and still are somehow active! Christian Dodelin suggested that problems in communications may be the reason for the behavior of some commission leaders (e.g. Marcel Meyssonier / Dept. of Education).

Alexander Klimchouk reminded everyone that this problem was always the case and that the rules stated – and should be respected – that if any commission does not report for two consecutive congresses, it has to be dissolved. Andy Eavis and George Veni expressed their concerns about the long time required for making such decisions (8 years /2 consecutive ICS) and stated that the UIS Bureau has responsibilities to keep the commissions active when needed.

There must be at least some information on the UIS Website featuring the status of the commissions ("active since...") and the invitation for interested cavers in reviving certain inactive commissions.

George Veni suggested to propose a rule or some sort of regulations that allow the UIS Bureau to appoint or ask for appointing other presidents/coordinators of commissions when necessary. Fadi Nader agreed on this proposal, but reminded that this should respect the Statutes and the Internal Regulations of the UIS.

DECISION 5: Add a mention on the UIS website that informs about the status of the commission or working group. This could be "last updated XX/XX/XXXX" If the commission is not active, also add a statement inviting cavers interested in reviving it to contact the VP-Admin.

ACTION 4: George Veni will check the Statutes and the Internal Regulations of the UIS and propose the needed changes in order to make the commission leaders more responsive and the commissions active. The UIS Forum will be used to vote and apply changes on the Internal Regulations.

c. Comments from Adolfo Eraso

The last email of Adolfo Eraso concerning the changes requested before the 15th ICS in Kerrville (2009) is simply due to the fact that Adolfo was not notified about the decisions taken during the previous UIS Bureau meeting. Fadi Nader apologized about not publishing the minutes due to some delays in finishing up the Bulletin (they were supposed to appear in the Bulletin 52-2 in December 2009).

Back in Kerrville (2009), the Bureau accepted the motion (proposed by Adolfo Eraso) to merge both groups and proposes the following name for the new commission: "GLACIER, FIRN AND ICE CAVES COMMISSION."

d. Commission of Informatics (and website)

Fadi Nader reported to the UIS Bureau the difficulties and problems encountered with respect to the website, forum and bulletin. He asked for help and decisions for actions that are efficient and pragmatic which once applied will make a difference. He noted that for these three items, Manuel Freire and Peter Matthews did all their best and were always constructive. Still, the website is the link of the UIS to all cavers of the world (including delegates and federations).

- We cannot afford to have an unattractive and un-updated website anymore;
- It is unacceptable to not have UIS Bulletin published on time; and
- We cannot function well as a Bureau, without investing in the Forum (this needs the help of each member of the Bureau)

Fadi Nader even proposed to pay some professionals to get the website going if needed.

Mr. Zdeněk Motyčka informed the Bureau that the Czech Speleological Society paid about 5,000 US Dollars to get a website functional and up-to-date. While Nadja Zupan Hajna informed the Bureau that the Geological Society of Slovenia hired a student to do the job for 500 Euros.

Alexander Klimchouk reminded everyone that we need a person who can deal with the technology, design and content. We do not need a webmaster all the time (it is a one time request); however we should have two persons who can help at any time.

DECISION 6: UIS Bureau members will use the FORUM for all intra-bureau correspondence between meetings and ICSs.

ACTION 5: The Secretary General (Fadi Nader) will write a letter to Peter Matthews and Manuel Freire thanking them for their enormous help concerning the website and informing them that the UIS Bureau (through the VP-Operation, Christian Dodelin) will seek help. They are invited to assist Christian Dodelin in having control over the website.

ACTION 6: The VP-Operation (Christian Dodelin) will take direct responsibility to sort out the website and getting its new version online and active as soon as possible (the Secretary General and President will assist him).

ACTION 7: George Veni will assist Fadi Nader in providing a template for the Bulletin.

e. Any other business related to commissions

George Veni also informed the Bureau on several issues related to commissions and working groups:

The Commission on Microbiology provided a report and proposed protocols on the recent spread of the WNS half-way across the USA.

The Ice Cave Workshop meeting in Obertraun (Austria) was excellent and the next one will be in September 2012 in Milan (Italy).

The upcoming Pseudokarst Commission Symposium will also take place in September 2012; more information will be soon published in the upcoming UIS Bulletin. George is coordinating the symposium dates with the commissions so that they do not occur at the same time and allow people to attend both.

The upcoming Vulcanospeleology Commission Symposium will take place this year (2010) in Australia.

11) Finance Update (Nadja Zupan Hajna)

Nadja Zupan Hajna informed the Bureau members about the financial status of the UIS as of June 2010. This can be roughly summarized as such:

About 6,297 Euros and 59,000 US Dollars (31/5/2010)

About 33,243 US Dollars available, as 25000 US Dollars frozen in Bank – to get interest (+9 euros/months after the bank charges paid)

Nadja informed the Bureau that several "member-countries" have no delegates and did not pay for many years. These should somehow be taken out of the list of actual member-countries.

A long discussion followed about the countries which still have debts unpaid. The Bureau was considering whether forgetting such debts or not. The general feeling consisted of asking for debt payments while having the possibility to cancel them on a case-by-case, when judged appropriate.

DECISION 7: Recommend for the upcoming General Assembly (Brno, 2013) a list of active member countries (dropping those countries that did not pay their fees for the last three consecutive years).

ACTION 8: The Treasurer (Nadja Zupan Hajna) is asked to invoice all countries for yearly subscription – in July 2010 – and those who have still debts are to be invoiced separately for their debts.

12) International Journal of Speleology (George Veni)

First, George Veni informed the Bureau that the NCKRI Board did not want to publish the IJS because of the small number of subscriptions. Todd Chavez proposed that the IJS become entirely electronic. The University of South Florida Libraries could take charge of the expenses for electronic services (ca. 5,000 US Dollars) and the paper copy could be foreseen by means of service companies (such as Amazon.com).

Christian Dodelin had asked the Editors of Karstologia whether they could help in this regard. The answer was positive, yet they did not submit a quotation.

Fadi Nader asked if turning into digital publications only would affect the impact factor? George Veni reported that the impact factor would not be affected if handled correctly.

Paul Williams believes that we need to take decision and we cannot afford losing time. However the proposed ideas are still not at the point to make a decision (permanent) – we still need a year or so.

Arrigo Cigna stated that Jo de Waele made an excellent work and the IJS is now a serious scientific publication. However the distribution was non-existent. The electronic form cost nothing and still OK. In the meantime we should find solutions.

George Veni informed the Bureau that Todd Chavez is willing to print the Journal for the coming two years, after which it has to become electronic.

ACTION 10: George Veni will discuss with the University of South Florida (Todd Chavez) a contract/convention with the UIS concerning the IJS – the Journal should remain the ownership of the UIS.

ACTION 11: Fritz Oedl (and the UIS Advisory Committee) will check the contract/convention with Univ. South Florida, once ready and reports comments and suggestions to the UIS Bureau.

13) UIS Bureau Workflow

Fadi Nader reported about the general workflow of the Bureau and highlighted a few issues that needed to be taken into account for more efficient functioning and correspondence.

a. UIS Letter-heads and business cards

Due to an increase in official letters sent by members of the UIS Bureau, Fadi Nader proposed that all Bureau members use similar letter-heads yet they keep their own referencing. The same would be for UIS business cards (same design, but printed individually by Bureau members).

All letters are to be cc-ed to the General Secretary and the President.

ACTION 12: Fadi Nader will provide the format of letter-heads to UIS Bureau members downloadable from the UIS Forum.

b. UIS Leaflet

With respect to the UIS Leaflet (introduction about the UIS), the Bureau members unanimously decided not to print it anymore, simply because the last printed leaflets did not make any significant impact.

c. Jobs for Adjunct Secretaries

Fadi Nader reminded everyone that during the first meeting of the current Bureau (in Kerrville 2010, after the second General Assembly of the 15th ICS), there was an agreement that the Adjunct Secretaries would help with the regional cover and links with national delegates and organizations. Thus, Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns would take care of the European countries and region; Efrain Mercado Latin America; Kyung Sik Woo, the Asian countries; Paul Williams, Australasia; Fadi Nader, Middle-East and Africa; and George Veni, North America.

George Veni also reminded everyone that Nadja Zupan Hajna is taking care of the Finance and acting Treasurer; that Stein-Erik Lauritzen is in charge of the Code of Ethics; and Paul Williams makes the liaison with IUCN.

George Veni also suggested some other tasks for Adjunct Secretaries. These are:

- **Fund Raising:** Somebody has to search for means of increasing the financial assets of the UIS
- **Books and other Prizes:** to keep tracks of publications and be ready to recommend prizes to the UIS Bureau prior to the ICSs

- **Awards for Service to Speleology and the UIS:** (see below; item #14)
- **Recruit new Member Countries:** help new candidates countries to join the UIS.
- **Recruiting proposals for future ICSs (17th ICS)**
- **Develop special UIS Expeditions or projects:** to organize international UIS expeditions and projects to promote speleology and the UIS on the international level.
- **Assist and help VPs:** Vice-Presidents may also need helping hands; adjunct secretaries are invited to help and assist them.

DECISION 8: Efrain Mercado proposes himself to help in recruiting new candidate member-countries of the UIS.

DECISION 9: Giovanni Badino will take in charge the task to develop special UIS expeditions and/or projects.

DECISION 10: Alexander Klimchouk proposes to help George Veni (VP-Administration with the commissions.

14) UIS Honorary Members

While Article 14 of the Internal Regulations states that the Bureau can propose persons to be Honorary members voted by the General Assembly, Paul Williams suggested that the Bureau could grant fellowships in recognition of outstanding speleological achievements (both sport/exploration and scientific). He proposed to implement in the Internal Regulations a statement enabling the Bureau to give an award called "fellowships/honorary" and consisting for example of a lifetime registration to ICSs.

The way the fellowship is granted was discussed. The idea is to receive, at least one year before the ICS, CVs and suggested referees. The Bureau will select its own referee. Then the selection of no more than four fellows will be made at the Bureau meeting just before ICS. At the opening meeting of the following ICS the President gives the awards (certificates).

Paul Williams stressed the fact that this is a very special humbling award, that has to be done with great deal of confidentiality.

ACTION 13: Paul Williams will draft the text concerning the proposal of fellowship for the next UIS Bureau meeting.

14) UIS Internal Regulations/ Statutes/ Legislations

Fadi Nader went over the current status of the Internal Regulations (IR), Statutes and Legislations, pointing out that he was very happy to have met Fritz Oedl in Austria just a few days before the meeting. He also pointed out that during the last Bureau meeting and as the representatives of the FSE were present, a motion was proposed to look into the Statutes and IR and to find a way to better represent the regional bodies (FEALC, FSE, etc.). He asked the Bureau to discuss this issue and to find solutions.

Thus, a long discussion took place about the representation of regional bodies (such as FEALC, FSE, BSU) at the UIS Bureau meetings.

DECISION 11: Representatives of the Regional bodies are considered as non-voting invited guests at the UIS Bureau meetings.

ACTION 14: George Veni will review items 14, 17 and 20 of the current Internal Regulations and post them for discussion and voting on the Forum.

15) Running Projects

a. UIS Book (J.-A. Labegalini)

Just a week ago, as Jose-Ayrton Labegalini and other members of the Bureau attended the centenary of Dachstein, Trimmel had given Jose-Ayrton the remaining information needed for the UIS Book. The planned schedule is as follows:

- 2011: Text finished before the next Bureau meeting
- 2012: Editing, Review and Design
- 2013: Printing (before the upcoming 16th ICS, Brno – Czech Republic)

ACTION 15: J.-A. Labegalini will prepare the draft text of the UIS Book for the next UIS Bureau meeting in 2011.

b. International Speleological Expedition to Iran

Fadi Nader informed the Bureau members about the post-expedition impacts and results in Iran (more than six national meetings; several expeditions; mapping of several caves; etc.). He also highlighted the fact that the Iranian cavers attended also cave-rescue and advanced training in Lebanon by the Speleo-Club du Liban in 2009. In addition, they are about to finalize the legislation of a national Iranian speleological Federation. Fadi Nader expressed his satisfaction and pride that the ISEI has contributed to all this achievements.

The expedition and post-expedition reports are going to be published in a book and this is still in progress.

Besides, the Iranian cavers have asked Fadi Nader and George Veni whether the UIS Bureau can visit Iran and have its annual meeting there in 2012. Fadi Nader explained that only if the Iranian Cavers succeed in officially establishing a national speleological federation and security conditions permitting, a UIS Bureau meeting in Iran could be discussed.

16) New/Prospective Member-Countries

a. Philippines

The contact-person is Denise Matias. No further news since the last ICS (Kerrville, 2009). Most probably, Fadi Nader will meet Denise in the fall 2010. The general agreement of the UIS Bureau is to wait and see if any progress will be made on this front.

b. Malaysia

The fees of Malaysia were paid for the years 1986 to 1988 and 1996 to 1998. Malaysia is already a member country of the UIS. We received a letter from Hymer requesting to become a Member-Country!

ACTION 16: Fadi Nader will write a letter to Hymer to ask if they can consider themselves representatives of Malaysia. Fadi Nader will also highlight the job description of national delegates, who should be habilitated to represent all cavers of his/her country (Statutes).

c. Iran

First the Iranian cavers have to succeed in establishing an official federation (see above).

d. Other Countries (e.g. Honduras)

ACTION 17: Fadi Nader will write a letter to ask if they can consider themselves representatives of Honduras and assume the job description of national delegates, who should be habilitated to represent all cavers of his/her country (Statutes).

17) Proposed Projects/Ideas

a. International Expeditions Database – UIS/FSE

The project proposed by Manuel Freire (since Kerrville 2009), has been discussed again during this meeting. Back in Kerrville, the Bureau welcomed the initiative of the Manuel and this FSE/UIS joint project and encouraged Manuel to start preparing the project.

While Manuel was supposed to be present at this UIS Bureau meeting in order to discuss this project among others, due to health problems he could not make it and the Bureau did not have any document presenting the discussed project.

ACTION 18: Fadi Nader will write a letter to ask the FSE Bureau to send documents (Agreement) on Item 18 on the minutes of the last FSE General Assembly (Budapest, 2010).

b. International Speleo-Competitions – Juan-Carlos Lopez Casas

Fadi Nader who had met with Juan Carlos Lopez in October 2009 in Madrid, explained the ideas behind this project. Unfortunately, Juan Carlos also could not make it to the UIS Bureau meeting in order to present his project.

The idea is to organize international speleo-competitions (outside; not in caves) under the auspices of the UIS. Having in mind that many cavers are more keen for the sport activities rather than scientific or cultural, and when we realize that many national federations are under Sport and Youth Ministries (they are expected to organize sport competitions to earn their yearly budget), this proposal becomes rational as long as it is well organized and certainly outdoor (never in caves).

The discussion of the UIS Bureau took a long time and below are some of the ideas discussed:

Stein-Erik Lauritzen: *As long as it is not in cave, following the Code of Ethics, and not focused on speed, it is OK for me. Caves are like museum and the attitude outside and inside caves should be well maintained in the spirit of the Code of Ethics.*

Alexander Klimchouk: *We should not support (on the international level) such activities /we had bad experience. We can create a whole new line of speleology not associated to explorations. On the country, at club level competitions are justified (training purposes). Some specific cases cannot be over generalized, this will open possibilities for precedents.*

Fadi Nader: *We should look at this issue with a different angle. The majority of cavers are sport-cavers and we are responsible for them too. We should guide Speleo-Competitions to safe-guard the ethics and conservation issues. Let us not enlarge the gap between the UIS and the mass of sport-cavers.*

George Veni: *In our ICS guidelines we include competitions so why should we do it and not others?*

Christian Dodelin: *Juan-Carlos told me about the proposed "well-organized" competitions by the Spanish Federation. Such activities take a lot of work and are very well done.*

Arrigo Cigna: *I agree personally with Alexander, nevertheless since the world is changing we should keep an eye on this development.*

Andy Eavis: *Provided that cavers do not damage the caves there are no problems. We should not oppose but keep some time for decision. I propose to write a paper about this issue.*

Paul Williams asked Andy to include in his paper serious/ clear proposals that we can vote on and lead us step by step...

ACTION 19: Andy Eavis will write a paper with the cons and pros of Speleological Competitions (by the end of 2010), that will serve as a serious/clear proposal to be voted on by the UIS Bureau.

c. Others

Fadi Nader informed the Bureau that the working Group on Ice Caves is preparing a book and may need soon advice and support of the UIS.

Fadi Nader and George Veni will contact Aurel Persiou (president of the Group) and keep the UIS Bureau informed of the progress of this project.

18) Future Meetings and Events

a. FEALC Congress (Cuba) – 4 to 8 August 2010

Efrain Mercado, George Veni, and maybe Andy Eavis will attend this event and represent the UIS.

b. ISCA Congress (Slovakia) – 20 to 24 October 2010

David Summers, who could not attend this UIS Bureau meeting, conveyed his greetings to the Bureau through Arrigo Cigna.

Andy Eavis, Giovanni Badino, and Arrigo Cigna will be present at this event. Pavel Bosak and Stein-Erik Lauritzen may as well join.

c. 1st Croatian Speleo Congress (Croatia) – 24 to 27 November 2010

Christian Dodelin, Fadi Nader, and Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns (and probably Stein-Erik Lauritzen) will join this meeting.

d. VMR Symposium (Belgium) – Sept/Oct 2011

Fadi Nader introduced this upcoming event to the Bureau and the official request for support from UIS.

e. Others

- Biospeleology Conference (Sloevnia 29 Aug. 3 September. Postojna)
- Vulcanospeleology Symposium (Australia, 2010)
- 12th multidisciplinary conference on sinkholes (January 10-14, 2011 USA)
- MESS III (Lebanon/Syria; Sept/Oct 2011) Middle East Speleology Symposium
- 12th Cave Rescue Conference Bulgaria (8 to 15 May 2011)
- Granit caves (Sweden) – 1 to 8 June 2011?
- 3rd International Conference on Karst Hydrogeology and Ecosystems (Kentucky, 8-10 June 2011) 4 days fieldtrip pre-conference
- 19th Karst School (Slovenia) /Karst underground Protection 20-25 June 2011
- Climate Change: the Karst Record 6 (27-29 June 2011?) speleothems /Birmingham, UK – pre- and post-conference fieldtrips
- 31st Brazilian congress (July 2011)
- Iran meeting 2012

19) Conservation Issues

a. China/Philippines

Paul Williams has drafted a letter to be sent to the authorities in China and another one to be sent to the Philippines. Fadi Nader will send the letters.

Complications:

In China, this issue has to be dealt with at the level of provinces. Better to send the letter to the Karst Institute of China and request to be sent to the Ministry.

Sales of speleothems do not mean that they are vandalizing caves. The speleothems could be collected during construction of highways, leveling, and/or major constructions work.

Fadi Nader suggested that the UIS should keep pressure on countries to make laws banning the import (as well as export) of speleothems; this could be the responsibility

of Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns (head of the Cave Protection and Management Department).

ACTION 20: Paul Williams in consultation with Kyung Sik Woo will refine the letters to China and Philippines and then send them to Fadi Nader who will officially send them to the authorities.

b. Thailand

Christian Dodelin had distributed documents prepared by Dr. Anderson who is trying to stop a project that is destroying karst and archeological sites in Thailand. Paul Williams warned that IUCN cannot do anything if such sites are not IUCN sites.

ACTION 21: VP-Operation Christian Dodelin will send a letter stating that the UIS recognizes the archeological value and conservation of the karst sites in Thailand.

c. Turkey

Baerbel Vogel (President of the German Speleological Federation) had sent papers about the Iisu dam project and its impact on karst. The documents were discussed at length.

Fadi Nader stated that he knew about this issue for a few years and he warns that he did not receive a clear demand by Turkish cavers to react! He finds difficulties in interfering in a national issue, especially when no clear demand from the national bodies have been made.

ACTION 22: Alexander Klimchouk will look into the Iisu Project and discuss it with the Turkish cavers.

d. Mexico

Some also disturbing news came in about the Yucatan in Mexico. The UIS Bureau did not receive clear data on this matter.

ACTION 23: Efrain Mercado will look into the case of Yucatan (Mexico) and reports to the UIS Bureau.



20) Any Other Business

a. Letter from A. Graña (President of FEALC)

Fadi Nader read the letter received from A. Graña (President of FEALC) to the UIS Bureau members.

b. FEALC-related Issues (e.g. Costa Rica, Argentina)

Costa Rica:

Efrain Mercado informed the UIS Bureau that the problems (FEALC / Costa Rica) were sorted out and that there will be a conference in Guatemala.

There was a general consensus that as soon as the conference date and title are decided, the UIS will support such a meeting.

Argentina:

The case of Argentina and its internal problems was exposed and discussed.

Fadi Nader informed the Bureau that he had received a letter from the president of FADE appointing the Delegate and Deputy Delegate to the UIS like always. There is no concrete information about legal unions or federations other than FADE. Besides, no official letters were sent to the UIS General Secretary from any other organization in Argentina contesting the present situation.

The general consensus concerning the case of Argentina was to "wait and see."

21) Closing Meeting (A. Eavis) + Setting the Action List of 2011

Around mid-day, Andy Eavis closed the UIS Bureau meeting for the year 2010 and thanked everybody for their presence and contribution. He highlighted the "wonderful turnout" to the meeting a sign of continuous progress of the Bureau.

Andy Eavis noted that for the next meeting, measures will be taken to prepare the agenda in a better and more efficient way (e.g. through executive meetings).

After the closure of the meeting, members of the Bureau worked out the distribution of jobs/tasks among adjunct secretaries, discussed the changes of some items of the Internal Regulations (George Veni, see above), and held a practical session on the use of the Forum.

ACTION 24: Fadi Nader will prepare the minutes of the meetings and the Action List for 2011.