

UIS BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING

28-29 May 2012

Oasis Smart Sense Hotel – Cancun (Mexico)

	ATTENDANCE: <i>Monday/Tuesday, May 28-29, 2012</i>
President	Andrew James EAVIS
Vice-President Administration	George VENI
Vice-President Operations	Christian DODELIN
Secretary General	Fadi NADER
Adjunct Secretaries	Efrain MERCADO
	Paul WILLIAMS
	Kyung Sik WOO
	Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA
Honorary & Past-Presidents	Julia JAMES
Bureau members not in attendance	Giovanni BADINO, Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS, Alexander KLIMCHOUK, Stein-Erik LAURITZEN
Representative of UMAE & Mexico National Delegate	Fatima TEC POOL
Organizer of the 16th ICS (Brno, Czech Republic)	Zdeněk MOTYČKA (via SKYPE)

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

Andy Eavis thanked all participants for coming to Quintana Roo (Playa del Carmen and Cancun), Mexico. He asked for one minute of silence for Urs Wildmer, eminent Swiss caver and past UIS Bureau member, who passed away recently; which was observed by the meeting attendees. Andy Eavis informed the Bureau that Giovanni Badino, Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns, Alexander Klimchouk, and Stein-Erik Lauritzen have apologized for not being able to come to this Bureau Meeting. Andy Eavis thanked Monica Ponce and the organizers of the "Congresso International de Espeleologia sobre Cuevas y Cenotes Maya" for hosting the Bureau meeting.

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

2) Approval of Minutes from Regular Sessions in 2011 (Jedovnice - Brno, CZECH REPUBLIC)

Efrain Mercado proposed a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting that was held in Hotel Terasa Postojna (Jedovnice, Czech Republic) on April 15 and 16, 2011. Paul Williams seconded this motion and it was passed by the Bureau.

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

Remaining Actions from 2011:

ACTION 2011-1: Provide space on UIS website for EXPEDITION ADVISORY SERVICE (link with European Federation Project for international expedition c/o Manuel Freire).

ACTION 2011-2: Bureau accepts to add Article 25 to regulations. The Regulations will need to be updated and published.

ACTION 2011-3: Andy Eavis will send a Letter of Support by UIS to AFS (Asia Federation of Speleologists).

3) Previous meetings and events (attended by UIS officers)

a. 50th Anniversary of Cave Rescue Organization, Budapest, Hungary, (29-30 April 2011)

Christian Dodelin attended this event and verbally reported the main outcomes to the UIS Bureau.

b. 12th Cave Rescue Conference in Bulgaria (8 to 15 May 2011)

Christian Dodelin attended this event and verbally reported the main outcomes to the UIS Bureau.

c. 3rd International Conference on Karst Hydrogeology and Ecosystems (Kentucky, 8-10 June 2011)

George Veni and Alexander Klimchouk attended this event, and George verbally reported the main outcomes to the UIS Bureau noting that the Conference was very well attended.

d. 19th Karst School (Slovenia) /Karst Underground Protection (20-25 June 2011)

Nadja Zupan Hajna and Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns attended this event. Nadja was one of its organizers and verbally reported that this Session of Karst School was dedicated to Cave Protection themes and attracted some 200 participants.

e. Climate Change: the Karst Record 6 (Birmingham – UK, 27-29 June 2011)

Paul Williams, Kyung Sik Woo and Andy Eavis attended this event. The attendees verbally reported the main outcome of this scientific meeting to the Bureau members noting concerns about oversampling and conservation issues (some 250 participants from many countries attended this meeting).

f. 31st Brazilian Congress of Speleology (University of Ponte Grossa; July 2011)

Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns, Efrain Mercado, Arrigo Cigna, and Jose-Ayrton Labegalini attended this event. A written message from Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns and verbal report by Efrain Mercado presented the outcomes of this meeting that attracted 130 participants.

g. U.S. National Speleological Society Convention, Glenwood Springs, Colorado, USA (18-22 July 2011)

George Veni attended this event and verbally reported the main outcomes to the UIS Bureau, especially the good promotion of the 16th International Congress of Speleology.

h. 1st Central American Karst Congress, Coban, Guatemala (10-14 August 2011)

Efrain Mercado attended this event (described to be very productive with some 70 participants) and verbally reported the main outcomes to the UIS Bureau.

i. Northern Karst Systems in Our Changing Environment (Pinega region of the Arkhangelsk area, Russia; 5-10 September, 2011)

Andy Eavis, Julia James and Derek Ford attended this event and verbally reported the main outcomes to the UIS Bureau.

j. 3rd Middle East Speleology Symposium MESS 3 (Kaslik – Lebanon; 23-25 September 2011)

Fadi Nader attended this event and verbally reported the main outcomes to the UIS Bureau.

k. Hidden Earth (UK; 23-25 September, 2011)

Andy Eavis attended this event and verbally reported the main outcomes to the UIS Bureau.

l. VMR Belgium (30 September, 2011)

Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns attended this event and Fadi Nader verbally reported the main outcomes to the UIS Bureau.

m. National Cave and Karst Management Symposium, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA (3-7 October 2011)

George Veni attended this event and verbally reported the main outcomes to the UIS Bureau.

n. 1st Asian Transkarst Conference, Indonesia (7 January, 2011)

This meeting was attended by Kyung Sik Woo and witnessed the foundation of the Asian Federation of Speleology.

o. Symposium of the Volcanic Caves Commission (Amman – Jordan; 15-22 March, 2012)

Julia James attended this event and verbally reported the main outcomes to the UIS Bureau.

p. Iran Salt Domes and Caves, Expedition and Meeting (Qeshm to Shiraz; 14-23 April, 2012)

Fadi Nader, Paul Williams, Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns and Efrain Mercado attended this event and verbally reported the main outcomes to the UIS Bureau.

q. Artificial Caves Commission (Torino - Italy; May, 2012)

This meeting is organized by Mario Parise and other members of the newly reorganized Artificial Cavities Commission, and it was very successful.

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

a. News from the Organizing Committee

Mr. Zdeněk Motyčka through a Skype video-conference 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 UIS Bureau meeting in Jedovnice (April, 2011) and projects future perspectives.

A discussion took place concerning the newly finished 2nd Circular. Some amendments were requested by Bureau members and taken into account by the ICS Organizing Committee.

For papers that are submitted in UIS official languages other than English a second abstract in English has been requested. Then for presentations in languages other than English, a recommendation was put forward to have the slides of the presentations in English.

b. UIS Prizes (J. James)

The Bureau accepted the recommendations of Julia James to apply some changes on the UIS Prizes. She will coordinate with the 16th ICS Organizers to promote the UIS Prizes. Here below is her report:

Background

The UIS prizes were introduced at the 12th ICS in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland, held in August 1997. The inaugural UIS prizes were advertised with the following guidelines from the 12th ICS:

1. UIS prize for the most significant discovery May 1993 - May 1997 - US\$ 250.00

Nominations for this prize are to be sent to the chair of the UIS prizes committee prior to May 31st 1997. Late submissions can be made at the 12th International Congress of Speleology, La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland. The UIS Bureau reserves the right to nominate additional discoveries for this prize.

2. The UIS prize for the most significant publication on a cave or karst topic published in 1993 - 1997 (inclusive) - US\$ 250.00

Nominations for this prize should be sent to, either the chair of the UIS prizes committee or to the secretary general. From the nominations, a short list will be prepared. Copies of the short-listed publications may be required for final judgment and display at the 12th International Congress of Speleology, Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland.

3. UIS poster prize - US\$ 250.00

This prize is for the best poster display at 12th International Congress of Speleology, la Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland. The poster can be on any cave or karst topic. Entries in the cave photographic and surveying competitions are ineligible for this prize.

The prizes together with a certificate were awarded during the conference dinner at the 12th International Congress of Speleology.

Proposed Changes

With time, it was necessary to change some of the ways of judging the prizes. This resulted from nominations not being received prior to Congresses as they were not advertised as part of the Congress information and only advertised in the UIS Bulletin.

UIS book prize US\$250.00

When nominations for the book prize are not received prior to a Congress, the only books judged had to be those available at the Congress. A committee of experts attending the Congress had to be assembled as judges. At the ICS meetings in 1997 & 2001, a number of these experts spent considerable time both reading and assessing potential books. **Such a load cannot be justified.**

Special Books Awards

A number of significant publications were being prepared by professional publishers and the Bureau accepted that there was a need for the introduction of Special Book Awards that would recognize these contributions to speleology. As they were produced by publishing houses the award consisted of a presentation plaque but no money. In 2005 at the 14th ICS the *Encyclopedia of Caves and Karst Science* and the *Encyclopedia of Caves* were recognized. The Special Book Awards were continued for the 15th ICS and the UIS Bureau consulted as to suitable publications.

For the 15th ICS I proposed that the UIS book prizes should be discontinued. However, it was too late and nominations came in. Hence, again I make the same proposal to the UIS Bureau. The special books award should continue but requires input from members of the UIS Bureau so that they are not limited to those in the English language.

UIS poster prizes - US\$ 125.00

Two UIS prizes were awarded for posters displayed at 14th International Congress of Speleology, The posters were on any cave or karst topic. Entries in the photographic and surveying competitions are ineligible for these prizes. One of the UIS prizes was awarded by a panel of international experts chaired by, Dr Julia M. James - a past-president of UIS. At the 14th ICS the Caver's prize was introduced and was a success. It was the poster voted for by the visitors to the poster display.

Each poster should not exceed 2 m (width) x 1 m (height). Each poster should contain a concise title, as well as the name, institutional affiliation and address of the author(s). It should include information about the materials and methods used, the results obtained (even if preliminary), and the conclusions reached. The poster may contain photos, figures, tables and maps. Authors must be available to discuss their work with the other participants.

For the above arrangement, the posters have to be easily judged by the committee and the cavers. In 1997, 2001 and 2005 they were displayed in a room close to the lecture rooms for almost the entire Congress. For the 15 ICS according to the program 99 posters should have been displayed but less than half were and those for a short time. The poster hall was in a building that was remote from the majority of conference activities and the designated area was small necessitating the short exposure time and rapid removal of posters. Dr. Hazel Barton, co-chair of the Microbiology Special Symposium should be congratulated on solving this problem by having the posters displayed at the end of the Microbiology Symposium and arranging for food and drinks at the poster display area.

In 2009, I discussed the poster display with the 16th ICS organizers and they were of the opinion that the space available in Brno was sufficiently large and close to the main Congress activities. However, as more posters require to be displayed as the fashions change and more papers are presented as posters, the poster display may need to be changed at least once during the Congress.

The two poster prizes should continue and judging take place as above.

Discovery Prize US\$ 250.00

The significant discovery prize is probably the easiest prize to judge and I have had no difficulties in assembling a committee of international speleologists familiar with exploration throughout the World. The committee has been able in all years to come to a consensus as to which discovery should be awarded the prize.

The discovery prize should continue and judged in the above manner,

Presentation of awards and prizes

Where the cost of the **Congress dinner** has been included in the Congress registration as in Switzerland and USA – it provides the **ideal venue for the awards and prizes to be presented by the outgoing president**. In Greece, the awards were presented by the incoming president at the closing session of the Congress. The closing session was not suitable.

5) UIS/UNESCO (Report of Andy Eavis)

Very interesting meeting and UIS has to be involved in ICSU. It is a very serious meeting (for instance, the conference opened by President of Italy) and so UIS needs representation by cave scientists of high international standing. Next meeting in Australia/Asia (P. Williams could attend it on the behalf of UIS).

Some recommendations:

- Inform commissions and link/lobby with ICSU members
- UIS President and Secretary General visit ICSU officers in Paris
- Projects of very high level (for example Paleoclimate of continents...)

Action 1: Fadi Nader will send an email to ICSU to ask about paying dues for the year 2012 - then make a payment order for Nadja Zupan Hajna.

6) UIS Code of Ethics (P. Williams)

Paul Williams informed the Bureau about the status of the new version of the Code of Ethics to be proposed to the General Assembly at the upcoming ICS in Brno (Czech Republic).

It was decided that Paul Williams and Julia James would review the text one more time in the evening of the first day of this meeting (Monday 28th of May) and report to the Bureau their final suggested amendments, the next day. This was done and the meeting approved the draft Code of Ethics.

The Bureau members will have until the end of June 2012 to make their last changes on the text before sending it to the National Delegates for consultations and review before December 15, 2012.

ACTION 2: Bureau members will have until end of June 2012 to review the working document of the Code of Ethics; then Fadi Nader will send it to delegates and give them until 15 December to reply with recommendations for amendments. By the 15th of March 2013, the revised document should be published as a proposal on the UIS website and circulated to National Delegates for their consideration and comment.

7) Commissions Report (G. Veni)

Summary of activity 2011-2012

Active	Partially active and/or poorly communicating	Not active and/or not communicating
Arts and Letters	Biology	Archaeology and Paleontology
Artificial Cavities	Cavers' Dictionary	Atlas of Karst Regions

Bibliography	Department of Education	Longest and Deepest Caves
Cave Diving	History of Speleology	Speleotherapy
Cave Mineralogy	Microbiology and Geomicrobiology	
Cave Rescue	Paleokarst and Speleochronology	
Department of Protection and Management	Physical Chemistry and Hydrogeology	
Glacier, Firn, and Ice Caves		
Informatics		
ISCA		
Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis		
Pseudokarst		
Techniques and Materials Development		
Volcanic Caves		

a. Archaeology and Paleontology

No reports or communications.

b. Arts and Letters

They coordinated the contest for the UIS Anthem and presented three entries for the Bureau to review and select from at this meeting year.

c. Artificial Cavities

The committee organized the highly successful *International Workshop on Speleology in Artificial Cavities* for May 2012 in Torino, Italy.

d. Atlas of Karst Regions

No reports or communications.

e. Bibliography

Speleological Abstracts 46 was recently produced and the commission plans to publish #47 and 48 by September 2012, #49 and 50 by January 2013, and #51 (which will cover papers published through 2012) by April 2013.

f. Biology

No reports or communications.

g. Cave Diving

This commission published a report in a recent UIS Bulletin.

h. Cave Mineralogy

The commission published a special issue on cave minerals for the *International Journal of Speleology*.

i. Cave Rescue

Christian Dodelin has organized successful cave rescue workshops in Bulgaria, Croatia, and Iran in 2011.

j. Cavers' Dictionary

No reports or communications since Farsi was added in late 2009.

k. Department of Education

The commission submitted a report in 2011 for the UIS Bulletin.

l. Department of Protection and Management

The Department continues to provide regular news and information, proposes to change its name to “Karst and Cave Protection Department” and to move ISCA from the Department to a different section of the UIS.

m. Glacier, Firn, and Ice Caves

The 5th International Workshop on Ice in Caves is planned for September 2012 in northern Italy. Approximately 40 abstracts have been submitted. George Veni is working with Andreas Pflitsch of Germany and several cavers in the USA to propose hosting the 6th workshop in Idaho Falls, Idaho, USA, in 2014.

n. History of Speleology

Commission President Karl Mais has died. Hubert Trimmell is serving as the contact for the commission and is looking to find someone willing to serve as the new president of the commission.

o. Hydrothermal Karst

This working group was dissolved and included within a Hypogenic Karst Working Group under the Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis Commission.

p. Informatics

No reports or communications.

q. ISCA

No reports or communications.

r. Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis

The commission is co-sponsoring the *International Conference on Karst Hydrogeology and Ecosystems* in Kentucky in June 2011 and held its meeting there, where the decision was made to dissolve the Hydrothermal Karst Working Group.

s. Longest and Deepest Caves

No activity. The President (Aitana Tamayo) does not respond to e-mails and the Vice President (Pat Kambesis) does not feel comfortable directing the commission without the President's knowledge or approval.

t. Microbiology and Geomicrobiology

No activity has been reported since the commission created microbiological decontamination protocols for the UIS in 2010.

u. Paleokarst and Speleochronology

No reports or communication.

v. Physical Chemistry and Hydrogeology

No reports or communications.

w. Pseudokarst

The commission is organizing a conference in September 2012 in Galicia, Spain.

x. Speleotherapy

No reports or communications.

y. Techniques and Materials Development

George Veni asked Aaron Bird of the USA to reorganize the commission. Aaron is willing and asked Bernard Tourte of France to work with him, based on a recommendation by Christian Dodeline. Bernard was involved in other projects and was not able to participate, so Aaron is now corresponding closely with Christian Berghold-Markom of Austria and Christopher Binding from the UK, as well as other cavers in Austria, the UK, and Belgium.

z. Volcanic Caves

The commission held a successful conference in 2010 in Australia and is planning another conference in March 2012 in Amman, Jordan.

ACTION 3: The UIS Bureau would like to motivate the Commissions and Support financially their efforts. A procedure for requesting financial support will be described through a letter to the Presidents of Commissions written by George Veni and Paul Williams – the prepared text for the new version of Code of Ethics will be attached to this Letter.

8) UIS Website and Forum (C. Dodelin, F. Nader)

a. Proposal by Peter Matthews to find sponsors for the public part of the forum and to start use of public part of the forum.

- The Bureau decided to keep the Public part of the Forum for one year (testing period). The same was decided for the UIS Bureau internal Forum which has not been used lately by Bureau members. Final decision to be made at the meetings during the upcoming ICS in 2013.

ACTION 4: Peter Matthews and Jasmina Rijavec will be asked by Fadi Nader to announce that the Public Part of the UIS Forum will be kept functional for one more year, before a decision to be made about keep it or not (after the 16th ICS in Brno in July 2013).

b. New website by Jasmina Rijavec (supervised by Peter Matthews).

This new website was presented by Fadi Nader to Bureau members, who appreciated it a lot, and the following recommendations were outlined:

- Send a letter of thanks to the Informatics Commission
- Post an announcement for cavers to check the new website

c. FaceBook Page for UIS?

Bureau agrees to publish the Page for a test period of a year and will review the decision at the next Bureau meeting.

ACTION 5: Andy Eavis will send a Letter of Acknowledgement, on the behalf of the UIS Bureau, to the members of the Informatics Commission attesting to their excellent work for the UIS.

9) Delegates and National Bodies Reports

Christian Dodelin, VP-Operation, reported on the news from delegates and national bodies.

Fadi Nader informed the Bureau that considerable efforts were made to update the details and coordinates of new delegates on UIS website.

The following recommendations were made:

- Communicate with Delegates +Copy of the Statutes/Internal Regulations + Hard Copy at the registration upon the opening of the General Assembly at the upcoming ICS in Brno in 2013.
- Send copies of Code of Ethics (see above)

10) Regulatory Questions and Issues (F. Nader)

a. Proposal by Jean-Pierre Bartholeymys to change the name of the Protection Department to "Karst and Cave Protection Department"

The Bureau finds no problem with changing the name of the Department, but it needs to be formally proposed and voted on by the General Assembly at the upcoming ICS in 2013.

b. Proposed item by Giovanni Badino (nation/country in Internal Regulations)

This suggestion led to a comprehensive review of several Articles in the Internal Regulations of the UIS. Some new amendments will be proposed for the upcoming General Assembly at the Brno ICS (2013).

In particular, a subcommittee was formed (G. Veni, F. Nader, and E. Mercado) and brought some recommendations related to:

- Who can use the UIS Logo
- Who should financially contribute to UIS for the use of the Logo.

George will consolidate ideas and review the whole Internal Regulations document and send it to Andy Eavis before sharing it with Bureau Members for comments before end of June 2012.

c. Should UIS apply for NGO status within UN

After reviewing the necessary requirements related to UN's NGO, (<http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/dpingorelations/home/join/Criteria>), the Bureau decided at this moment not to apply for NGO status within the UN.

d. Should UIS collect dues from country with a few cavers (e.g. Denmark)

The Bureau agrees that all countries should pay dues, although in especial circumstances fees can be waived by the Bureau.

e. Creation of an organizational chart for UIS (P. Williams)

The Bureau found that such organizational chart exists in the UIS Book prepared by Jose-Ayrton Labegalini.

ACTION 6: Kyung Sik Woo will send a letter to several Chinese Associations to ask them to become affiliated UIS members, and to ask them to nominate an official Chinese Delegate and re-join the UIS.

ACTION 7: George Veni will re-edit the Internal Regulations of the UIS and send them to Andy Eavis, then to all Bureau members before end of June for comments.

ACTION 8: George Veni will inform the UIS Commissions that they may apply for up to 2,000 Euros in funding from the UIS.

11) Finance Update

Nadja Zupan Hajna reported the Financial Update of the UIS as follows:

1. Incomes in 2011

Income from received fees and debts	5322 € and 925 USD
Financial incomes from business claims (donation)	409,50 USD
Financial income from interests in EUR	5,88 €
Financial income from interests in USD	73,78 USD
TOTAL	5327,88 € and 1408,28 USD

2. Expenses in 2011

Costs of accounting services	311,64 €
Costs of payment transactions	89,21 € and 43,95 USD
Donations to other legal entities	10000 USD
Material costs	0 €
SUM	400,84 € and 10043,95 USD

INCOME SURPLUS: 4927,04 € and -8635,67 USD

The UIS in 2011 shows a surplus of 4927,04 € incomes and minus of 8635,67 USD incomes and transfers them to unallocated surplus of total incomes of **10764,40 €** and **25533,35 USD**.

On the day of 31/12/2011 UIS had the following assets:

- Cash in EUR: **0**
- Cash in U.S. dollars: **0**
- Short-term foreign currency deposit in U.S. dollars: 25000,00 USD

TOTAL: 10764,40 € and 50533,35 USD.

On the day of 31/12/2010 UIS had no liabilities

Postojna, May 15, 2012

The Bureau decided to update the list of Member Countries and to propose a new List to the upcoming General Assembly at Brno (2013).

Three categories for the Member Countries defined for the upcoming ICS (Brno, 2013):

- i) to lose membership of the UIS, [long history of lack of payment of fees],
- ii) prospective loss of membership [frequent lack of payment of fees],
- iii) requested settlement of unpaid fees [temporary lapse in payment of fees]

e.g. Countries to lose UIS membership: Algeria...

e.g. Countries to be contacted before losing their UIS membership: Albania, Armenia, Bolivia...

e.g. Countries to be reminded about paying unpaid fees: Brasil...

A request was received from Lithuania to waive its previous debt. This was justified by the establishment of a new national organization. The UIS Bureau agreed to waive the debt and encourage the new organization.

12) Current Projects

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

J.-A. Labegalini sent no new report. His previously proposed timeline is still viable and the book may be ready for publishing and distribution at the upcoming 16th ICS in Brno (2013), although some additional effort by the Bureau members is required.

The estimated schedule as of 2012:

- 2012: Editing, Review and Design
- 2013: Printing (before the upcoming 16th ICS, Brno – Czech Republic)

ACTION 9: Nadia Zupan Hajna and Andy Eavis will follow up on the UIS Book Project and will work out publishing and printing the book in Slovenia before the 16th ICS.

b. Selection of UIS Anthem (G. Veni)

Following a competition for selecting the best Anthem to play during the raising of the UIS Flag before the first session of the General Assembly at the ICS, THREE anthems remained (A1, A2, A3).

The Bureau listened to all three of them and voted as follows:

A1: voted by Jean-Pierre BArtholeyns (by letter)

A2: voted by Christian Dodelin

A3: voted by Andy Eavis, Fadi Nader, Paul Williams, Efrain Mercado, Kyung Sik Woo)

Nadia Zupan Hajna and George Veni abstained from voting.

In conclusion, Anthem (#3) proposed by Pete Fine (USA) was selected by the UIS Bureau and it will be played during the raising of the UIS Flag in Brno in 2013.

13) New Member-countries (existing and/or prospective):

Iran (F. Nader)

As the UIS Secretary General has received two official requests (one from the Federation of Mountaineering, and the other from Speleology Association in Iran), it has been agreed that Fadi Nader will draft a letter to both parties describing to them the criteria for UIS Member countries and National Delegates and informing them that the UIS Bureau will support Iran becoming a new Member Country at the upcoming General Assembly at the ICS in Brno (2013) – the GA will vote on this proposal. The letter will also inform the Iranian cavers that they must appoint their delegate according to the UIS Statutes. The letter will be reviewed and signed by Andy Eavis; and sent to both parties in Iran.

ACTION 10: Fadi Nader will prepare a letter to the Iranian cavers that will be signed by Andy Eavis, and sent to both parties requesting Iran to become a UIS member country.

14) Proposed projects/ideas:

a. New UIS Expedition (F. Nader)

Searching for a new destination for a UIS Expedition: ?Philippines, ?Guatemala.

b. Australia Bid for ICS 2017 (J. James)

The UIS Bureau Members noted that they were **extremely pleased** to receive the official letter by the President of ASF, Mr. Stanley Flavel (dated June 3, 2012) and the verbal notification (by Julia James) of the intention to bid for the 2017 ICS.

15) Future meetings and events:

- a. Karst School Postojna (18 June 2012): **Nadja Zupan Hajna**
- b. NSS Convention – West Virginia (25-29 June 2012): **George Veni**
- c. Speleo Austria – Bad Mitterndorf (12-15 August 2012):

- d. IAS Karst Session – Austria Schladming (10-13 September 2012):
- e. 12th Pseudokarst Conference, Galicia, Spain (10-15 September 2012):
- f. International Congress on Scientific Research in Show Caves – Slovenia (10-13 September 2012): **Nadja Zupan Hajna**
- g. 5th International Workshop on Ice in Caves, Italy (16-23 September 2012): **Stein-Erik Lauritzen.**
- h. Protected Karst Territories – Bulgaria (16-20 September 2012)
- i. International Association of Hydrogeology Congress – Niagara Falls / Canada (16-21 September 2012):
- j. 18th International Cave Bear Symposium – Romania (20-23 September 2012)
- k. Hidden Earth (22-23 September 2012): **Andy Eavis**
- l. 13th Swiss National Congress of Speleology – Muotathal (29 September to October 1) – FSE Meeting: **Andy Eavis, Christian Dodelin**
- m. Ghost Rock Karst Symposium – Han Sur Lesse /Belgium (7 to 11 October, 2012)
- n. ISCA – Greece and Turkey (4 to 10 November 2012)
- o. Australian Speleological Federation Conference – Galong, New South Wales (5 to 11 January 2013): **Julia James**
- p. Carbon and boundaries in Karst – Carlsbad NM /USA (7 to 11 January 2013): **George Veni**
- q. 11th National Congress of Mexico – Merida (1-4 February 2013): **Efrain Mercado**
- r. Mine Water Solutions in Extreme Environments – Lima /Peru (April/May 2013)
- s. 13th Sinkhole Conference Carlsbad NM /USA (6 to 10 May 2013): **George Veni**
- t. ACKMA – New Zealand (12 to 18 May 2013): **Paul Williams, Julia James, Kyung Sik Woo, Nadja Zupan Hajna**
- u. 50th Anniversary of the French Federation of Speleologies FFS – Millau (18 to 20 May 2013): **Christian Dodelin**
- v. 16th ICS – Brno (21-28 July 2013): **ALL**

16) UIS Bureau 2013 Meeting:

a. Location

Brno, Czech Republic (Venue of the 16th ICS; 21-28 July, 2013)

a. Date

Fadi Nader and Nadja Zupan Hajna will arrive on the 18th of July and will spend the day of the 19th preparing the Bureau meeting and material for the General Assembly (on the 21st of July).

Bureau members will convene on the 20th for the 2013 Bureau Meeting. They are expected to arrive to Brno on the 19th of July.

17) Conservation Issues

a. Speleothems Sales

The UIS Bureau (with the help of Paul Williams and Kyung Sik Woo) is ready to send a letter to the authorities in China and Philippines to ask their support in stopping the current sales of speleothems.

The Bureau asked Fadi Nader to see for the possibilities to send such letter through our ICSU and UNESCO Networks in Paris.

b. Hydrofracturing Tight Reservoirs

Based on an inquiry proposed by Andy Eavis, the Bureau members discussed about the techniques of hydrofracturing reservoirs and their impact on karst features and water.

The Bureau members were asked to follow up and monitor this and related issues in their areas.

18) ISCA

The UIS Bureau found that the fact that ISCA occupies the place of a Commission in the Department of Protection is problematic, as ISCA remains an independent organization. So, a proposal that ISCA could become Associated Organization to UIS, rather than function as a Commission, was discussed and will be further investigated.

ACTION 11: Andy Eavis will talk about ISCA-UIS situation with David Summer, and will subsequently report to UIS Bureau.

19) Other Business (Closed Session)

ACTION 12: Andy Eavis will write a letter of support to FEALC and copy it to C. Benedetto.

ACTION 13: Fadi Nader will write a letter to the Argentinian Speleological Organizations to ask them to re-confirm Carlos Benedetto as the national delegate of Argentina to the UIS.

20) Closing Meeting and Setting the Action List of 2012

Andy Eavis closed the UIS Bureau meeting for the year 2012 (at 17:45 on May 29, 2012) and thanked everybody for their presence and contribution.

ACTION 14: Fadi Nader will prepare the minutes of the meetings and the Action List for 2012.