

UIS ANNUAL BUREAU MEETING

September 11-12, 2019

Bohol (PHILIPPINES)

	Attendance: Session 1 <i>Wednesday September 11, 2019; at 9h00 (local time)</i>
President	George VENI
Vice-President for Administration	Zdenek MOTYCKA
Vice-President for Operations	Efrain MERCADO
Secretary General	Fadi NADER (punctual attendance via SKYPE)
Treasurer	Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA
Adjunct Secretaries	Bernard CHIROL Nivaldo COLZATO Mladen GARASIC Satoshi GOTO Gyula HEGEDUS Tim MOULDS Bärbel VOGEL (punctual attendance via SKYPE)
Honorary M. & Past-Presidents	Andy EAVIS J.-A. LABEGALINI
Guests	Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS, Phil ROWSELL

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

George VENI thanked all participants for coming to Bohol (Philippines). He presented the apologies of Fadi NADER and Bärbel VOGEL for not attending this annual UIS Bureau meeting in person but only by Skype.

Since the Secretary General (Fadi NADER) was not physically present at the meeting in Bohol, George VENI asked for a recording secretary. Tim MOULDS volunteered.

The Bureau meeting costs and dinner time were discussed and approved unanimously.

George VENI proposed to approve the meeting agenda. Zdenek MOTYCKA seconded, and the agenda was approved unanimously.

DECISION 1: The Agenda items of the Meeting were approved by the present Bureau members.

2) Approval of Minutes of Regular Bureau Meeting of 2018 (Ebensee, Austria)

After review, George Veni proposed to approve the minutes of the previous annual meeting. Tim Moulds seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

DECISION 2: The minutes of the 2018 annual meeting were approved by the UIS Bureau.

3) Review Action Items and Decisions of previous UIS Bureau Meeting (2018) – Decisions to be made on follow up un-accomplished actions

All action items and decisions are completed.

4) ICS 2021 (ICS Organizing Committee FFS)

a. Updates – Status (after UIS delegation visit in July 2019: N. Zupan Hajna, Z. Motyčka, F. Nader, B. Chirol)

Meeting in Ardeche to prepare the scientific program was attended by Nadja, Fadi, and Zdenek in July. They reported the availability of large auditoriums, small rooms, dormitories, and other things needed for a successful congress. In general, everything seems well organized.

The dormitory rooms have two bedrooms and a small kitchenette and bathroom. The organizers suggested a price of 25 euros per person per night. They encourage everyone to stay in the dormitories because the campground is small. They have other areas for mobile homes. They also have couples' dormitories. Hotels are in walking distance, and many others are accessible by tram. The tram stops in the center of the university campus.

Finances – Currently the expected registration prices are 129 euros for early registration and 175 euros for onsite registration. Registration includes everything apart from the Wednesday's, pre-congress and post-congress excursions. The welcome party and reception are included. Printed proceedings will be extra. Memory stick with proceedings will be included. Entertainment will be in the speleo bar every night. Caving competitions and other usual events are planned. They are expecting 2000 participants and the capacity of the site is around 3000 people.

UIS meeting and other requirements needs to be told to the organizers. Dorm accommodation to be provided to the UIS Bureau. Other accommodation options to be paid for by individuals if other than dorm required.

Promotion has been limited but a professional media communication person will be hired by end of 2019. Production of a promotional video is very good and needed for introducing the conference, in addition to a PowerPoint presentation that can also be shown in each country. The 1st circular is expected to be completed imminently.

b. Progress – Way Forward

- i. Technical program (involving UIS Commissions)
- ii. Spelemedia
- iii. Excursions
- iv. Budget

c. ISCA at the ICS (G. Veni)

ISCA will be present at the ICS Lyon and would like to meet with UIS during the congress. An estimated 5-6 show caves will be featured during the ICS. The ISCA board will also like to have a meeting of its own during the congress, and George has

offered to schedule a time for them to use the UIS Bureau room if a separate room cannot be found.

Action 1: GV to schedule a time for ISCA board to meet in the UIS Bureau room or alternate room during the ICS 2021.

5) UIS Media

a. Website (E. MERCADO)

IYCK information is on a test website currently but will be moved to the main site soon (EM/Jasmina). All digital material will be made available.

- i. Translation option (M. Garasic, N. Colzato)
Google translation will be used (E. Mercado / N. Colzato / M. Garašić).

b. Facebook Page (2004 members) – working well

- c. **UIS Bulletin (N. COLZATO)** – needs more articles as only one expedition report was received for the last issue. Contributions from member countries and commissions needed, as well as PSS and UMAE conference reports for the bulletin.

A link to the bulletin should be added to the UIS Facebook page.

Action 2: FN to add link to the UIS Bulletin from the UIS Facebook page.

Regular links to the UIS website also provided.

Use of other social media such as Instagram Twitter, WeChat, etc. for different countries and age groups – Satoshi Goto

Action 3: SG to coordinate/prepare use of new social media accounts in different countries/regions to promote the UIS.

d. UIS History video (M. Garašić, G. Veni)

Use free music available online that has been credited in the video. ZM will provide a list of sites/music that may be suitable for use on the video. Baerbel arranged for Uwe Krueger to help Boris Watz if he needs help.

Action 4: ZM to provide a list of sites/music that may be suitable for use on the video.

6) UIS Bureau internal functioning (F. NADER / G. VENI)

a. Information policy inside the Bureau (email, deadlines, skype)

Generally working well.

b. Reports of UIS Bureau members

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- c. **Skype meetings** – No skype meetings in the past year. IYCK has had some skype meetings.

7) UIS Relationships with Regional Organization and Countries (F. NADER / G. VENI)

- a. MOU between UIS and the Karst Research Institute (N. Zupan-Hajna).
- b. Refer to Excel document.
- c. FEALC request to become a UIS Associated Speleological Organization (E. Mercado) – FEALC has a longer and more specific Code of Ethics. FEALC will follow their code of ethics unless the UIS code is better. It was accepted that George would read the FEALC Code of Ethics in English during the night and provide his recommendation the next day for discussion.
- d. Associated Speleological Organization for Asian Union of Speleology (G. Veni) – If not already approved Eko Haryono will send a letter requesting association.
- e. Member countries: Kirgizstan (S. Goto)
- f. George will contact Alexey Dudashvilli to discuss expectations and issues with his speleological expeditions

ACTION 5: George will contact Alexey Dudashvilli to discuss expectations and issues with his speleological expeditions.

8) ISCA News (G. VENI)

Next congress in 2022 in San Antonio, Texas, USA. GV will likely attend.

9) Finance Update (N. Zupan Hajna)

- a. Summary – Status (see Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA's report in the UIS Bulletin)
- b. Upcoming payments (Internet, Commissions, ...)
- c. Commissions
- d. Sponsorship support
- e. Other expenses
- f. Proposal by Brazil to create new dues category – an extra category between 60E and 240E of 120E for proposed 100-499 cavers. Proposed by NZ, seconded EM. ZM abstained, all others voted for.

DECISION 3: The UIS Bureau accepted the proposal made by Brazil creating a new membership fees category for countries having 100 to 499 registered cavers. The fees categories will be the followings:

- A: 480 €, 2000 or more cavers**
B: 360 €, 1000-1999 cavers
C: 240 €, 500-999 cavers
D: 120 €, 100-499 cavers
E: 60 €, <100 cavers

ACTION 6: The UIS Bureau will inform the General Assembly and seek its approval on the new fee categories.

10) IYCK 2021 (G. VENI, N. ZUPAN HAJNA)

- a. **Present situation** - UIS should have a high-level opening ceremony at UNESCO headquarters in Paris and include the UNESCO Director and important country ambassadors. To have the opening at UNESCO, UIS needs to hire the facilities and use UNESCO catering and drinks packages. Without providing catering and drinks, it is unlikely that many countries will attend and will have therefore little impact. Although it will not be a UNESCO Year, UIS may get UNESCO patronage to support the ICS and/or the opening of the IYCK. Also, we can potentially offer a public event at UNESCO with movies on caves and karst conservation and talks by eminent karst scientists.

- b. **Leaflet and Website** – copies of the promotional leaflet and stickers provided to UIS delegates for distribution in their countries. The website was reviewed briefly.

- c. **Way forward**
 - i. Program (Year) – Opening of IYCK in Paris (UNESCO Headquarters), ICS Lyon will be the major event of the year, Closing Ceremony in Slovenia. 10+ year investment in cave and karst protection and exploration and promotion.
 - ii. Budget – at least 15,000-20,000 Euros are needed for the conference facilities at UNESCO headquarters for speeches and presentations by UNESCO chiefs in order to get delegates to attend. In the evening the auditorium would be used for movies. The cocktail reception would be used to show the importance of the year. Space is needed for an exhibition. Targeted marketing is needed to individual country ambassadors to attract them to the opening to address problems related to karst in their own countries i.e. groundwater contamination, quarrying, deforestation etc. Patronage from the UNESCO Director will be determined later in the year.
 - iii. Production of a 3-4-minute video (approx. 7,800 € + tax)
 - iv. Closing ceremony in Slovenia (1,000 €)
 - v. Look for sponsors from companies such as various bottled water, Petzl, Singapore cave company, Airbus etc.
 - vi. Total budget required for the IYCK - Opening UNESCO (15,000-20,000), Posters for opening 2,000 €, Movie (7,800 €), brochures and gifts for the opening (3,000 €), Closing (1,000 €), buffer (2,000 €) – **Total 30,800 – 35,800 €**

After considerable discussion regarding the amount for UIS to initially commit to the IYCK prior to securing sponsorship it was decided unanimously to approve up to 15,000 Euro total for the IYCK Opening (~10,000 €) at UNESCO and also for the production of a 3-4 minute video by Uwe Krueger (~5,000 €). Proposed GV, seconded ZM.

DECISION 4: The UIS Bureau decided unanimously to approve up to 15,000 Euro total for the IYCK Opening (~10,000 €) at UNESCO and also for the production of a 3-4-minute video by Uwe Krueger (~5,000 €).

11) UIS Commissions and Expeditions (Z. Motyčka)

- a. News and Updates – ZM summarized all grants to commissions.
- b. Financial Requests – no current financial requests from commissions for 2019 (except for any previously approved requests).
- c. International Expeditions support – 3 expeditions supported in 2018, expeditions budget 3,000 € for 2019. Unanimously approved.

DECISION 5: The UIS Bureau approved unanimously the International Expeditions Support budget for 2019 (3,000 €).

12) Adjunct Secretary reports (not discussed under other agenda items)

- a. Australia and Southeast Asia (T. Moulds) – National conference held in January 2019 in Tasmania and well attended with ~120 participants
- b. Education and film (M. Garašić) – Films in Cyprus.
- c. Speleological development in Asia (S. Goto) – AUS expedition in Kalimantan to be held in mid-2020.
- d. UN liaison (B. Vogel) – working group established with Joerg Dreybrodt representing the Germany Federation at the Europe event. At the New York event two speleologists represented the UIS in 2018, but no one was able to represent UIS/caving in the 2019 event in New York. Joerg Dreybrodt made a presentation at the event in Geneva. Side events need to be organized early.

13) Venue and date of the 2020 UIS Bureau Meeting (G. Veni)

Two invitations (Slovakia 12-15 May 2020, 9th International Workshop on Ice Caves & the 12th Scientific Conference Research, Utilization and Protection of Caves) and USA (Mammoth Cave 18-22 May 2020, UNESCOkarst 2020 meeting, UIS Bureau 16-17 May prior to conference). 1 vote for Mammoth Cave (GV), BV abstain, remaining all voted for Slovakia.

DECISION 6: The UIS Bureau voted the acceptance of the invitation to organize its 2020 annual Bureau meeting in Slovakia in association to the 9th International Workshop on Ice Caves & the 12th Scientific Conference Research, Utilization and Protection of Caves (12-15 May 2020).

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Morning visit to Hinagdanan Cave 8:00-11:00am

14) UIS T-shirts and products (G. Hegedús, N. Colzato, J-P Bartholevns)

Electronic proposal presented by Gyula HEGEDUS. Hungary has the highest VAT in the EU. G. HEGEDUS proposes to order a selection of merchandise and then sell them over several years.

Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS proposes to only sell items on pre order.

List of products – T shirts (men’s and women’s 203g/cm² cotton - blue and white – screen printed logo), polo shirts (>220 g/cm² weight fabric embroidered logo), ties for men (Blue with white logo), scarf (same as tie) agreed as basic initial products to stock – GH to revised proposal based upon these specific products and return the proposal to the UIS bureau for future approval.

Sales model – sold to order by external website/provider suggested by George VENI (LandsEnd website is one provider)

UIS Bureau members to purchase their own UIS branded products using their own funds.

ACTION 3: The UIS Bureau members to purchase their own UIS branded products using their own funds.

12) UIS Commissions and Expeditions (Z. MOTYCKA).

a. HABE Prize (J.-P. BARTHOLEYNS)

Allotment of money for prizes every year: 250.00 Euros were approved for each prize yearly (the UIS website needs to be updated accordingly to).

Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS asked for an increase of funds up to 500.00 Euros, and if possible, to carry on the funds to next year in case there is no prize allocated to a certain year.

- Vote approved assigning 250.00 Euros each year to Protection Commission for the HABE Prize. These funds will not be carried on to the next year in case there is no prize allotted for a certain year.

b. UIS Commissions (support)

Up to 2,000.00 Euros have been assigned to support commissions (George VENDI).

- Monica PONCE asked for support to the Materials and Techniques Commission.
- Speleotherapy Commission asked for support – 300 Euros (request rejected by UIS Bureau but set for a vote after the Bureau Meeting).
- Karst Hydrogeology Commission asked for support (request approved).
- Glacier, Firn and Ice Caves Commission request:
 - UIS shall not pay for travelling expenses
 - UIS Bureau needs more precise information

Funds allotted for this year. May change as funding requests fluctuate in the next years.

UIS supports commissions webpages linked to UIS Website. Mirror page from commission sites could be provided on UIS Website.

DECISION 7: UIS Bureau will allocate 2000 Euros to support UIS Commissions, including 250 Euros for the HABE Prize.

13) Adding a section to UIS Internal Guidelines for the use of Logo.

Added: “Only national representative organizations of member countries can use the UIS Logo. Others shall ask for permission and all must follow the user per the Visual Identity Guide.” These changes were made in the UIS Internal Regulations.

14) News from major past speleological events

- a. International Association of Hydrogeologists Congress, with Topic 7: Advances in Karst and Fractured-rock Hydrogeology, 9-14 September 2018 (Daejeon, South Korea), <http://iah2018.org/>. No one present attended.
- b. 24th International Cave Bear Symposium, 27-30 September 2018 (Chepelare, Bulgaria), <http://icbs2018.at>. No one present attended.
- c. Biospeleology and Theoretical & Applied Karstology Symposium, 27-30 September 2018 (Băile Herculane, Romania), <http://www.btak.iser.ro/index.html>. No one present attended.
- d. 4th International Anchialine Ecosystems Symposium, 1-7 October 2018 (Lanzarote, Canary Islands, Spain), www.4isae.es. No one present attended.
- e. International Workshop for Women Speleologists in Latin America, 2-6 October 2018, (Viñales, Pinar del Río, Cuba), presidentesec@ceniai.inf.cu. EM and BC were present; the meeting was attended by 90 people.
- f. Middle Eastern Speleological Symposium, 3-6 October 2018 (Antalya, Turkey), <http://mess4.com/>. MG attended; it included 200 people from 15-18 countries.
- g. British Cave Research Association 29th Cave Science Symposium, 13 October 2018 (Bristol, United Kingdom), for information contact Gina Moseley (gina.moseley[at]-juibk.ac.at). No one present attended.
- h. 8th Congress of the International Show Caves Association, 12-18 October 2018 (Genga, Italy), <http://www.i-s-c-a.com/event/68-8th-isca-congress>. SG, NZ and GV attended and met with ISCA board.
- i. 16th International Symposium of Speleotherapy, 24-28 October 2018 (Zlate Hory, Czech Republic), <http://www.speleotherapycommission.webgarden.com/menu/news/the-xvi-th-international>. No one present attended.
- j. 1st Colombian Speleological Congress and 8th Congress of FEALC (Federation of Latin American and Caribbean Speleological Associations), 6-10 November 2018 (San Gil, Colombia), <http://sociedadcolombianadegeologia.org/8cealc/>. EM attended; the meeting was very safe, cheap, and went well.
- k. International Cave Rescue Training, 10-18 November 2018 (Lozere, France), dodelinchristian@gmail.com. Colleagues of ZM attended; a report was published in UIS Bulletin.
- l. XIV National Congress of Speleology, 1-4 February 2019 (Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico), <http://umae.org/congreso2019/>. GV and EM attended; it was well organized and well attended. GV presented about the IYCK to much enthusiasm.
- m. 90th anniversary of organized speleology in Bulgaria, 18 March 2019. Attended by MG.
- n. 1st Colloquium on the Caves of Azé, 9-10 March 2019 (Saône-et-Loire, France), for more information, contact: lionel.barriquand@wanadoo.fr. BC attended
- o. Hypogea 2019: The International Congress of Speleology in Artificial Cavities, 20-25 May 2019 (Dobrich, Bulgaria), <http://www.hypogea2019.org/>. No one present attended.
- p. XII International Convention on Environment and Development 1-5 July 2019 Attended by EM.
- q. National Speleological Congress of Switzerland, 9-12 August 2019 (Interlaken, Switzerland), <https://sinterlaken.ch/en/>. JPB attended; 300 attendees, mostly from Switzerland.
- r. Brazilian Congress of Speleology, Bonito 2019. Attended by EM, NC, NZ, and JPB. Impressive music introduction and good meeting with the SBE.
- s. 27th Classical karstological school Postojna Slovenia 21-27 June 2019. Pavel Bosak attended.
- t. Slovakian National Caving Congress 10-11 May 2019. Attended by ZM.

15) Attendance on future speleology events (listing events and attendees)

- a. 3rd Asian TransKarst Conference, 30 August – 1 September 2019 (Philippines), <http://www.transkarst2019.com/>. UIS Bureau attended!
- b. ArmConference 2019: Caves as Natural and Cultural Monuments, 11-13 September 2019 (Yerevan, Armenia), <http://armconference2019.com/>. No one present was scheduled to attend.
- c. 25th International Cave Bear Symposium, 18-22 September 2019 (Paklenica National Park, Croatia), nadja.kavcik@univie.ac.at. MG to attend.
- d. 13th EuroSpeleo Forum, 26-29 September 2019 (Sofia, Bulgaria), <https://esf2019.speleo-bg.org>. MG GH to attend.
- e. International Symposium on Techniques for Remote Location of Unknown Underground Cavities, 26-29 September 2019 (Sofia, Bulgaria), <https://esf2019.speleo-bg.org/symposia/>. No one present was scheduled to attend.
- f. Protected Karst Territories – Legislation, Tourism, Monitoring, 29 September – 2 October 2019 (Sofia, Bulgaria), <http://prokarstterra.bas.bg/forum2019>. No one present was scheduled to attend.
- g. 46th IAH Congress “Groundwater Management and Governance Coping with Water Scarcity” (Topic 7: Karst Hydrogeology), 23-27 September 2019 (Malaga, Spain), <http://www.iah2019.org/topics-and-sessions/>. No one present was scheduled to attend.
- h. Sustainable Management of Show Caves, 7-9 October 2019 (Skocjan Caves Park, Slovenia), <https://izrkc-sci-mtg.zrc-sazu.si/en/>. NZ may attend.
- i. National Cave and Karst Management Symposium, 7-11 October 2019 (Bristol, Virginia, USA), <http://nckms.org/2019-symposium>. Colleagues of GV will attend.
- j. British Cave Research Association 30th Annual Cave Science Symposium, 19-20 October 2019 (Keyworth, Nottingham, UK), for more information contact Dr. Andy Farrant at: [arf\[at\]bgs.ac.uk](mailto:arf[at]bgs.ac.uk). No one present was scheduled to attend.
- k. 13th European Cave Rescue Meeting, 15-17 November 2019 (Istanbul, Turkey), <https://caverescue.eu/13th-european-cave-rescue-meeting/>. GH to attend
- l. International Congress: 80th Anniversary of the Cuban Speleological Society, 19-23 February 2020 (Caibarién, Villa Clara, Cuba), for information contact congreso80aniv.sec@gmail.com. EM to attend.
- m. 16th Multidisciplinary Conference on the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst, 20-24 April 2020 (San Juan, Puerto Rico), www.sinkholeconference.com. GV to attend.
- n. ALCADI Alps Carpathians and Dinaric Gorizia Italy 30 April 3 May 2020. GH and MG to attend.
- o. 23rd Conference of the Australasian Cave and Karst Management Association, 3-8 May 2020 (Jenolan Caves, New South Wales, Australia), www.ackma.org. TM may attend.
- p. 9th International Workshop on Ice Caves (IWIC-IX) & the 12th Scientific Conference Research, Utilization and Protection of Caves, 12-15 May 2020 (Liptovský Mikuláš, Slovakia), for information contact milos.melega@ssj.sk. Location for next UIS Bureau meeting.
- q. US Geological Survey Karst Interest Group Meeting, 13-14 May 2020 (Nashville, Tennessee), for information contact akclark@usgs.gov. Colleagues of GV will attend.
- r. UNESCOkarst 2020: Conservation of Fragile Karst Resources, 18-22 May 2020 (Bowling Green, Kentucky, USA), <https://unescokarst2020.com/>. GV to attend.
- s. 19th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology, 29 August – 5 September 2020 (Catania, Italy), <http://www.19isvetna.com/>. Julia James to attend
- t. European Cave and Karst Protection Symposium. BV to attend
- u. 28th Classical karstological school Postojna Slovenia. NZ to attend.

- v. EuroKarst 2021: The European Congress on Karst Hydrogeology and Carbonate Reservoirs, 22-24 June 2021 (Málaga, Spain), <http://www.eurokarst.org/>. No one present was scheduled to attend.
- w. 18th International Congress of Speleology, 23-29 July 2021 (Lyon, France), <http://uis2021.speleos.fr/>. UIS Bureau to attend.

16) Any other business

- a. Candidates for the 19th ICS, 2025? – Mexico has expressed interest (Cancun), China is interested in bidding – internal permissions may be an issue, Brazil may be interested in bidding. Proposals must be formally submitted by 1st July 2020 (1 year in advance).
- b. Status of ISO standards (G. Veni, B. Vogel) – first meeting will be in the next 2 weeks in China (22-25 September). BV has been in contact with various countries and Canada will report on the meeting results. Currently the USA is not an observing or contributing country. The head the ISO committee in China has made it possible for the UIS to be present as a participating organization in the future. This ISO process appears to be driven by the Chinese government requiring China’s International Research Center on Karst to develop the committee. ISO standards can be useful if they are “good” however replacing existing long-established terminology is not useful. Information to be sent to Phil Rowsell.
- c. FEALC request to become a UIS Associated Speleological Organization (E. Mercado) – George reported finding nothing in the FEALC Code of Ethics that would violate UIS standards of the UIS Code of Ethics. Everyone agreed as follows “The UIS accepted FEALC’s request to become a UIS Associated Speleological Organization with the understanding that UIS recognizes FEALC has its own Code of Ethics, which do not violate but include concepts of the UIS Code of Ethics.”
- d. SBE would like to present “Carta de Bonito” to be supported by UIS (N. Colzato) – farmers in the area are polluting river water through land clearing of riparian vegetation that is polluting caves downstream. NC to provide additional information.
- e. Announcements or anything else – minor changes to the UIS event guidelines as proposed by GV approved by meeting.
- f. Following new information, the UIS Bureau will next gather as follows:
 - May 9 Slovak Speleological Society Meeting
 - May 10-11, Bureau meeting
 - May 12-15, 9th International Workshop on Ice Caves & the 12th Scientific Conference Research, Utilization and Protection of Caves

21) Closing Statements (G. Veni)

George VENI closed the 2019 UIS Bureau meeting, by thanking them for their time and input.

Meeting closed at 17.46, on the 12th of September 2019.