

Report

of activity of the Pseudokarst Commission of UIS between 2009 and 2013

Functionaries of the Commission till May, 2010:

Jiří Kopecký (honorary president), István Eszterhás (honorary president), Jan Urban (president), Rudolf Pavuza (vice-president), Ludovít Gaál (secretary).

Members: Ahmad Afrasibian, Soraya Ayub, Karl Mais, Hartmut Simmert, Maurizio Tavagnutti, Tiberiu Tulucan, Marcos Vaqueiro and Marina Vdovets.

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Members: Jiří Adamovič, Ahmad Afrasibian, Soraya Ayub, William R. Halliday, Erich Knust, Karl Mais (till January 2012), Włodzimierz Margielewski, Jan Paul van der Pas, Juan Ramón Vidal Romani, Hartmut Simmert, Rabbe Sjöberg, Herman de Swart (since September 2012), George Szentes, Maurizio Tavagnutti, Tiberiu Tulucan, Marcos Vaqueiro Rodriguez, Marina Vdovets, Lukáš Vlček, Josef Wagner.

In January 2012 we lost Karl “Charly” Mais from Vienna, Austria, long-term member of the Pseudokarst Commission, participation in many fields of activeness of the International Union of Speleology.

The assemblies of Pseudokarst Commission:

- 19-26th July 2009, during the 15th Congress of UIS in Kerrville (USA),
- 13th May 2010, during the 11th International Symposium on Pseudokarst in Saupsdorf (Germany),
- 13th September 2012. during the 12th International Symposium on Pseudokarst in Tui, Spain).

Events (meetings):

- The 11th International Pseudokarst Symposium in Saupsdorf, Saxon Switzerland, Germany, 12-16 May 2010, organized by the Speleoclub *Höhlen- und Karstforschung Dresden*, strictly by the committee headed by Hartmut Simmert. In the Symposium attended 53 participants from 10 countries. 21 lectures were held during the scientific sessions. Lecture Abstracts and Excursion Guidebook as well as Symposium Proceedings were published.
- The 2nd International Conference on Granite Caves, Nynäshamn, Sweden, 31 May-7 June 2011, organised by the committee headed by Rabbe Sjöberg and Nils-Axel Mörner. The meeting gathered some 20 persons from 6 countries. Materials (guidebook, abstracts, presentations) are published in digital version.

- The 12th International Pseudokarst Symposium in Tui, Galicia, Spain, 11-14 September 2012, organized by *Clube Espeleolóxico Maúxo* and *Instituto Universitario de Xeoloxía "Isidro Parga Pondal"*, *University of A Coruña*. The organizing Committee was led by Marcos Vaqueiro-Rodríguez and Juan Ramón Vidal-Romaní. The Symposium was attended by 27 participants from 8 countries. The scientific session comprised 11 lectures. Lecture Abstracts and Excursion Guidebook were published, Symposium Proceedings are in preparation in the series of "*Cadernos do Laboratorio Xeolóxico de Laxe, Univ. La Coruña*"
- Moreover, several other international and national meetings thematically connected with activities of the Pseudokarst Commission and attended by members of this Commission were held in some countries of Europe, e.g.:
 - Speleological Symposium (national meeting), Wisła (Beskidy Mts - an area of the occurrence of pseudokarst caves), Poland, 8-10.10.2010.
 - Meeting of the Karst and Speleology Commission of Russian Geographical Society, St. Petersburg, 16.11.2011.
 - International Conference "Sandstone Landscapes III", Kudowa-Zdrój, Poland, 25-28.04.2012;
 - Jubilee Meeting of Hungarian Volcanospeleological Collective, Sukoró, Hungary, 21-22.07.2012;

Publications:

- The Proceedings of the 11th International Pseudokarst Symposium in Saupsdorf, Germany. Editor: Jana Simmert.
- Pseudokarst Commission Newsletter has been issued one or twice a year in two languages: English and German. Editors: Jan Urban, Rudolf Pavuza and Christa Pfarr. The following numbers were published: no 20 (March 2010), no 21 (December 2010), no 22 (December 2011) and no 23 (December 23). The Newsletter is distributed mainly in digital version by internet, but several to several tens of printed copies are also produced.
- Reports from meetings organized by the Pseudokarst Commission and other activities of the Commission were published in the UIS Bulletin, no. 52, 53 and 55 as well as in national speleological or geological journals.

Webpage

The webpage of the Pseudokarst Commission (edited by Hartmut Simmert) has been still active. It presents all documents produced by the Commission assembly and executive group, issues of the Pseudokarst Newsletters as well as reports and announcements concerning meetings and other events. It also presents the members and functionaries of the Commission, history of the Commission as well as European clubs and scientific institutions exploring and/or studying non-karst caves.

Current activeness

Members of the Commission have been actively participating in preparation and direct organization of the 16th ICS Congress. Particular thanks should be given to Jiří Adamovič, who is a convener of Congress sessions dedicated to non-karst caves.

Future events and prospects:

- The most important aim of the Pseudokarst Commission activity is the organization of pseudokarst international symposia. During the last Commission assembly (Tui in Spain, 2012), the place and date of the next, 13th International Pseudokarst Symposium, was not chosen, however several proposals were considered. One of the most emphasized was proposition to hold the symposium in 2015, in Czech Republic, which hosted such symposia several times, but the last one in 1990. In this context the Podyji National Park (Southern Moravia) was mentioned, but lack of representatives of this country caused that conclusion was shifted to the time of the 16th ICS Congress in Brno.
- Two the most important scientific problems have been associated with the Pseudokarst Commission activity since its beginning (foundation of the Commission). The first has been the scientific meaning and definition of the term “pseudokarst”, while the second has been the classification of pseudokarst objects, in particular caves. Since the second problem seems to be crucial to solve the first one, the executive committee of the Commission propose to establish during the Commission assembly in Brno, 2013, the Working Group on the Classification of Pseudokarst (or Non-Karst) Caves, with the aim to prepare such classification and to publish it in the most important speleological and geological journals. The results of its activeness may/could be presented at the next ICS)
- The persistent work of the Pseudokarst Commission executive will be continued. So the webpage will be updated and next issues of the Pseudokarst Newsletter are expected. The Commission asked the UIS Bureau for financial support (ca 225 Euros a year) to be able to produce and distribute also printed color-copies of the Newsletter besides the internet/online issue.

Brno 21.07.2013

Ludovít Gaál
Secretary

Jan Urban
President