

Kraków, 11.08.2008

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President of the Commission on Pseudokarst UIS

**The letter to the Participants of the UIS Bureau Meeting
during the 13th Vulcanospeleology Symposium in Jeju, Korea - 2008**

Being absent on the Meeting, I would like to inform its Participants about the activity of the Commission on Pseudokarst of UIS. The last important events in our activity were:

- a) The 10th International Symposium on Pseudokarst, held in Gorizia (Italy), 29.04-2.05.2008, attended by 63 participants from 11 countries.
- b) The International Conference on Granite Caves, held in La Coruña (Spain) in 17-22.09.2007.
- c) The International Working Meeting of Root Structures in Pseudokarst Caves, held in Teplice nad Metují (Czech Republic) in 21-23.09.2007.

During this first meeting the assembly of the Commission on Pseudokarst took part. The main items of the assembly were: discussion about past and future events and activities, as well as election of the Commission officials. The detailed report on discussion and election was sent to the UIS Office, therefore I only would like to emphasize some most important things, which were discussed during the meeting and which are the persistent effects of the Commission work.

One of the most important job of the Commission is the edition of the “Newsletters” continued since 1998 thanks to Istvan Eszterhas. Recently the no 18th of the “Newsletter”, presenting the results of the last Symposium, have been issued. The printing and distribution of the “Newsletter” has been conducted without help of the UIS, up to now. Therefore, I kindly asked the UIS Office for the financial support in publishing and distribution of this publication.

The other advances of our activity are the editions of the materials of every International Symposia on Pseudokarst, as well as some other Symposia co-organised by the Commission. The scientific papers of the 9th International Symposium on Pseudokarst were published in

English in the journal “Nature Conservation”, no. 63 (Cracow, Poland), whereas the popular materials were published speleological periodic “Zacisk” (Bielsko-Biala, Poland). I hope the materials of the 10th Symposium will be printed soon. Also the reports about the Symposia have been published in UIS Bulletin and in national journals on speleology and geology.

Our new challenge, discussed during the last meeting, is the homepage of the Commission. The provisional version of the homepage can be found in the net at the address: <http://www.pseudokarst.de.vu/> , and I suppose, it will be completed this autumn (although it will be continuously updated).

Our principal job is the organisation of the International Symposia on Pseudokarst organised since 1982. Last Symposia, organized by the Commission with co-operation of the national or regional speleological clubs and scientific institutions, were held regularly each two years,. They gathered usually about 50 scientific participants from ca 10 countries (lately, not only European countries). The next, 11th Symposium will be organised in Königstein near Dresden (Germany) in May 2010 and – looking at the region and its situation in Europe – I suppose that it will be one of the most interesting and largest (regarding attendance) in the history of the Pseudokarst Symposia. Moreover, the 12th Symposium, planned in 2012, was discussed and its organisation in Sweden has been preliminary accepted.

I am conscious, that the attendance and activity of the members of the Commission on Pseudokarst is less discernible during the UIS Congresses, which is caused by several reasons. But the activity of the Commission has been not less than other groups and bodies working within the structure of the International Union of Speleology. I am sure that our work on the development of the knowledge about the caves, their formation, scientific and aesthetic values and preservation represents significant contribution to the activity of the UIS.

I wish you profitable discussion during the meeting and new, interesting experiences during sessions and excursions in Korea.

Sincerely yours

Jan Urban