

Report
of activity of the Pseudokarst Commission of UIS between 2015 and 2017

Functionaries of the Commission:

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

Members: Jiří Adamovič, Ahmad Afrasibian, Ivo Baroň, Pavel Bella, John Dunkley, Ludovít Gaál, William R. Halliday, Erich Knust, Jan Lenart, Włodzimierz Margielewski, Jan Paul van der Pas, Juan Ramón Vidal Romani, Hartmut Simmert, Rabbe Sjöberg, Herman de Swart, George Szentés, Maurizio Tavagnutti, Marcos Vaqueiro Rodriguez, Marina Vdovets, Josef Wagner, Karel Žák. During the reported period three new members were adopted into the Commission, while three not active (for many years) persons were removed.

Assembly of the Commission

The last assembly took place during the 13th International Symposium on Pseudokarst in Kunčice pod Ondřejníkem, 17th September 2015; in this meeting the report of the Commission activity in 2013-2015 was presented.

Events (meetings):

- The assembly, taking place during the 13th International Symposium on Pseudokarst in Kunčice pod Ondřejníkem, Czech Rep., 17th September 2015, gathered 11 members of the Commission from 9 countries.
- The 13th International Symposium on Pseudokarst was held in 16-19th September 2015, in Kunčice pod Ondřejníkem, Czech Rep.. During the scientific sessions of this Symposium 16 lectures and 5 posters were given. The field sessions (lasting one and half days) included visits of two caves and several sites of a morphology shaped by gravitational slope movements.

Publications:

- The booklet of abstracts (50 pp.) and field-session guidebook (12 pp.) were published by the organizers of the 13th International Symposium on Pseudokarst and distributed among its participants.
- Pseudokarst Commission Newsletter has been issued once a year in two languages: English and German. Editors of the issues were: Jan Urban, Rudolf Pavuza and Christa Pfarr. During the reported period two issues were published: no. 26 (2016) and no. 27 (2017). The Newsletter is still distributed both in digital version by internet and in printed copies by mail. Both issues include 7 scientific or popular-scientific papers as well as several short notices, event announcements and reports.
- The reports on the 13th International Symposium on Pseudokarst, were published in the UIS Bulletin 58, 1/2016 (pp. 13-17), Pseudokarst Newsletter no. 26/2016 (pp 27-34), Przegląd Geologiczny (Geological Review) no. 64, 2/2016 (pp. 84-85) and Zacisk 29/2017 (in press).
- The report on the Pseudokarst Commission activity in 2013-2015 was published in the UIS Bulletin 58, 1/2016 (pp. 10-12).

Webpage

The webpage of the Pseudokarst Commission (edited by Hartmut Simmert) is permanently active (address: <http://www.pseudokarst.com/>). It presents documents produced by the

Commission assembly and executive group, issues of the Pseudokarst Newsletters, reports and announcements concerning meetings and other events, as well as many past symposia proceedings. All activity providing new data and improving the informational level of the webpage is welcome.

Current and planned activities, problems

- The most important aim of the Pseudokarst Commission activity is the organization of international pseudokarst symposia. Although during the 17th International Congress of Speleology in Sydney the adequate session on non-karst caves and landforms will be organized, this Congress cannot be assumed as a meeting of the Commission, since only two its members attend the Congress. Therefore, the crucial problem, which should be solved as soon as possible, is the location of the 14th International Symposium on Pseudokarst. So far, the Commission executive explored some possibilities (Romania, Russia, Sweden) without success, therefore all proposals are welcome. The ultimate term of this meeting is 2019.
- The difficulty with the organization of the pseudokarst symposium seems to be a part of much greater problem of the Commission members' activity and, generally, membership. Although the number of the Commission members has not decreased and their "quality" and professional output are very high and are still getting greater, the average age of the Commission members is increasing along with the time, which does not contribute to the activeness of the Commission as a whole. Therefore, the executive group of the Commission call on all members and friends of the Commission to find young people working on "pseudokarst" and ask them to involve in the Commission activity. We need such people within the Commission and its executive group. The newsletter – by the way – represents an already renowned international platform for the presentation of results and ideas.
- The Commission executive proposes to prolong the activity of the Working Group on the Classification of Non-Karst Caves under the leadership of P. Bella and L. Gaál. We hope that the conclusions of this group work will be presented during the 14th International Symposium on Pseudokarst.
- Due to good work of the UIS Vice-President, George Veni, the information on events related to cave and karst exploration, study and management (meeting announcements, publications atc.) has been efficiently distributed to the Commission executive and then redistributed to its members and friends.

Kraków-Wien-Dresden 30.06.2017

Hartmut Simmert
Secretary

Rudolf Pavuza
Vice-President

Jan Urban
President