

Minutes
of the Assembly of the UIS Pseudokarst Commission,
13th September 2012.
during the 12th International Symposium on Pseudokarst in Tui, Spain

Attendance: Włodzimierz Margielewski (Poland), Jan Paul van der Pas (Netherland), Rudolf Pavuza (Austria), Herman de Swart (Netherland) Georg Szentes (Germany), Jan Urban (Poland), Marcos Vaqueiro Rodriguez (Spain), Juan Ramón Vidal Romani (Spain).

In the assembly the following items were discussed:

1. The 11th Symposium on Pseudokarst in Saupsdorf (Germany) - recapitulation.
2. Other events and activities between the 11th and 12th Symposia
3. Current activities – the 12th International Symposium on Pseudokarst
4. Activities and works of the UIS Bureau
5. Expected events and future activeness of the Commission
6. Election of the executive committee of the Commission

Ad 1.

The 11th International Pseudokarst Symposium in Saupsdorf/Germany, 12-16 May 2010 - recapitulation.

The main organizer of the Symposium was Caving Club Höhlen- und Karstforschung Dresden. The Chairman of the Organizing Committee was Hartmut Simmert, and he was efficiently supported by his family (daughters) and colleagues, especially Bernt Wutzig. This Symposium gathered 50 scientific participants from 10 countries: Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, and Sweden. During the three half-day sessions (13-15 May), 21 lectures were held and several posters were presented. During the Symposium, field sessions were organized after the scientific sessions. Seven different excursions were provided – from easy walks to climbing in deep vertical caves. Many thanks for Organizers for their hard work and hospitality!

A year after the Symposium the book of the Symposium Proceedings was published in very attractive form and it was sent to authors and other people interested in such materials. The Proceedings are also accessible on the Pseudokarst Commission website. Many thanks to organizers!

The reports on the 10th Pseudokarst Symposium were published in:

- UIS Bulletin,
- Aragonit (a journal of the Slovak Cave Administration),
- Przegląd Geologiczny (Geological Review – Poland's most popular geological journal)
- Karszt és Barlankutató Tájékoztató (Newsletter of the Hungarian Speleological Society),
- Yearbook of the Hungarian Vulcanspeleological Collective.

Ad 2.

Other events and activities between the 10th and 11th Symposia

- a) During and after the last Commission Assembly, the list of Commission members was significantly enlarged from about 10 people to more than 20. The membership was updated at the Commission webpage, which is still managed by Hartmut Simmert. The web-page is vital, new events and publications are recorded there. Recently the book of Proceedings of

the 11th International Symposium on Pseudokarst was published on the webpage. The members and co-operators of the Commission are requested to publish in the website reports and messages on speleological activity of their clubs and other announcements, etc.

- b) The 2nd International Conference on Granite Caves, Nynäshamn, Sweden (31.05-7.06. 2011), was organised by the committee headed by Rabbe Sjöberg and Nils-Axel Mörner in cooperation with the UIS Pseudokarst Commission. The meeting gathered some 20 persons from 6 countries. Presentations about various aspects of non-karst caves in Austria, Finland, Italy, Spain and Sweden were given. During the Symposium and post-Symposium excursions, diverse and spectacular caves were shown, among which the seismotectonic ones were the most interesting. The report, by R. Pavuza, was published in the "Pseudokarst Commission Newsletter" no 22 ("Second International Conference on Granite Caves", p 19 - 20).
- c) Not connected directly with the UIS Pseudokarst Commission activity, but related to the interests of its members were also:
 - International Conference "Sandstone Landscapes III", Kudowa Zdrój, Poland 25-28.04.2012. The report, by E. Knust, will be published in the "Pseudokarst Commission Newsletter" no 23.
 - Two meetings of the Russian Geographical Society in St. Petersburg:
 - 1. Meeting of the Karst and Speleology Commission of RGO. 16.11.2011.
 - 2. Scientific-practical conference "Leningrad Region as an object of study." 16.03.2012.
- d) Two issues of the "Pseudokarst Commission Newsletter" were published: no 21 (December 2010) and no 22 (December 2011). Both were edited traditionally in two languages (English and German) by Rudi Pavuza and Jan Urban, with help of Rudi's collaborator, Mrs Pfarr. The first issue (no. 21) was distributed mainly in electronic form by the Internet, but several paper copies in colour were also produced and sent to the authors. The second one was published only as an Internet version, because no funds were available for printing it in colour and sending it by post. The Newsletters are also accessible on the Commission website.
- e) Two reports were sent to UIS Bureau:
 - 1) on the Pseudokarst Commission activity in the period May 2011-May 2012,
 - 2) on the 10th Pseudokarst Symposium (published in UIS Bulletin).
- f) Continuous contact with the UIS Bureau was kept and the most important messages and announcements from this Bureau were transmitted to the Commission members. The Commission President, Jan Urban also keeps contact with organizers of the 16th International Congress of Speleology which will be held in Brno, Czech Republic, next summer.
- g) On the 9th January 2012, a "long-lasting" member of the Pseudokarst Commission, Karl "Charly" Mais died. Rudolf Pavuza has given some words of remembrance. Karl was an excellent scientist and brilliant publisher in the field of speleological sciences, also in non-karst caves studies. Karl's death is a great loss for Austrian and international speleology.

Ad 3.

Current activities – the 12th International Pseudokarst Symposium

The present, 12th International Pseudokarst Symposium is organized by *Clube Espeleológico Maúxo* and *Instituto Universitario de Xeoloxía "Isidro Parga Pondal"*, University of A Coruña.

The organizing Committee is led by Marcos Vaqueiro-Rodríguez, chairman on speleology, and Juan Ramón Vidal-Romaní, chairman on geology. The main aims and scientific problems are

“How old is pseudokarst: dating caves and forms” as well as the state of survey and protection of the granite landforms, as caves and tors in Galicia. The Symposium was attended by 27 participants from 8 countries (Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Germany, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland, and Spain). Unfortunately the Italian and Russian participants needed to cancel. Lecture Abstracts and Excursion Guidebook was published. The Commission has expressed its gratitude and thanks to the organizers for this excellent event.

Ad 4.

Activities and works of the UIS Bureau.

Due to the activity of the Vice-President of the International Union of Speleology, George Veni, the Bureau and whole management of this organization has acted much more vigorously than before. The webpage of the UIS was also reconstructed and updated. The Pseudokarst Commission head (personally J. Urban) has received many messages which have been then distributed among members and co-operators of the Commission. One of the last messages from the UIS Bureau, signed by George Veni, reported:

- proposed changes in the UIS Internal Regulations for better communication between Commissions and the Bureau,
- Karst Information Portal as a project of the UIS,
- financial support of the Departments, Commissions, and Working Groups for specific projects or needs.

We, members of the Pseudokarst Commission, hope that the Commission is sufficiently active, so we can expect to get some help from the UIS Bureau in our activities. This statement was confirmed by Jan Paul van der Pas, the President of the Volcanic Caves Commission. He stated that the Pseudokarst and Volcanic Caves Commissions are considered as the most active commissions of the UIS.

Ad 5.

Expected events and future activeness of the Commission

a) 16th International Congress of Speleology, held in Brno, Czech Republic, 21-28.07. 2013.

Since the Congress will be held just in central Europe, close to the countries (living places) of many of members of the Pseudokarst Commission, and most of them will be able to attend it, this Congress gives a unique opportunity to promote pseudokarst problems and to present the Pseudokarst Commission's achievements. During this Congress, Session no. 5 will be dedicated to "Karst, pseudokarst in other rocks" (other than carbonate rocks, salt and gypsum) and conveyed by members of our Commission: J. Adamovič and R. Pavuza.

The President of the Pseudokarst Commission, J. Urban asked for the active participation of the Commission's members and other researchers of non-karst caves in this event. During the meeting at least 10 members expressed their intention to participate in the Congress and to prepare lectures for the section no. 5. Hopefully, the number of the participants will significantly increase.

Also two pre- and post-Congress excursions will concern non-karst objects. One of them: “Non-karst caves in the siliciclastic-clayey flysch of the Outer Carpathians” (16-20.07.2013), is proposed by Polish members of the Pseudokarst Commission. The second is proposed by our Czech colleagues: “Sandstone caves and rock cities of Bohemia” (29.07.3.08.2013).

b) The next, 13th International Symposium on Pseudokarst is planned in 2015 (not in two years, due to the date of the 16 UIS Congress which, hopefully, will be attended by numerous

members of the Commission). The location of the next symposium was not settled, because no representatives of the nations have offered to organize the event. Therefore the location of the 13th Symposium will be decided in the Commission Meeting during the 16th UIS Congress. There was a suggestion to organize it in South Moravia, Czech Republic, as a cooperative project of Austrian and Czech members of the Commission, with excursions in both countries.

- c) “Pseudokarst Commission Newsletter”. We should keep the tradition to publish the Newsletter in two languages: English and German – expressed Mr. Urban. But to realize this, at least two “fixed” members of editorial board: English-German translator and technical editor, are necessary. He, personally, has no spare time to prepare more than one edition a year and there are no more materials to publish. However, there is no obstacle to organize another editorial board and publish more issues a year. The members of the assembly accepted the acting editorial board and its proposal to publish one edition a year.

The members of the Commission support the idea to ask the UIS Bureau for financial support in order to publish and distribute the “Newsletter” also in (colour) paper version. They asked Rudolf Pavuza, the Vice-President of the Commission, to keep contacts with the UIS Bureau in this affair.

The members and friends of the Commission are requested for more active participation and to contribute materials for the Newsletters.

Ad 6.

Election of the executive committee of the Commission: president, vice-president, secretary

There was no new candidate for the executive committee of the Commission. It was suggested to keep in position the current office-holders. The participants of the Commission assembly voted concordantly for this suggestion. The president and the vice-president accepted the vote, whereas the absent Ludovít Gaál had expressed his allowance to be a candidate for the secretary by e-mail. It means that Jan Urban is the President, Rudolf Pavuza is the Vice-President and Ludovít Gaál is the Secretary, forming the Executive Committee of the Pseudokarst Commission for the next period.

Functionaries and Members of the Commission are the following persons:

Jiří Kopecký (Honorary President), István Eszterhás (Honorary President), Jan Urban (President), Rudolf Pavuza (Vice-President), Ludovít Gaál (Secretary).

Members: Jiří Adamovič, Ahmad Afrasibian, Soraya Ayub, William R. Halliday, Erich Knust, Włodzimierz Margielewski, Hartmut Simmert, Rabbe Sjöberg, Herman de Swart, George Szentes, Maurizio Tavagnutti, Jan Paul van der Pas, Tiberiu Tulucan, Marcos Vaqueiro Rodriguez, Marina Vdovets, Juan Ramon Vidal Romani, Lukaš Vlček and Josef Wagner.

The president asks the friends of the Commission to join formally the Commission and to work within its body.

Recorded by J. Urban and G. Szentes