

**Minutes**  
**of the Assembly of the Pseudokarst Commission UIS,**  
**25<sup>th</sup> July 2013,**  
**during the 16<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Speleology, Brno**

**Attendance:** Jiří Adamovič (Czech Republic), Pavel Bella (Slovakia), John Dunkley (Australia), Ludovít Gaál (Slovakia), Peter Gažík (Slovakia), Rubens Hardt (Brasil), Erich Knust (Germany), Jan Paul van der Pas (Netherlands), Charlie Self (United Kingdom), Hartmut Simmert (Germany), Herman de Swart (Netherlands), Georg Szentes (Germany), Rudolf Pavuza (Austria), Jörg Templin (Germany), Jan Urban (Poland), Juan Ramón Vidal Romani (Spain), Karel Žák (Czech Republic).

**In the assembly the following items were discussed:**

1. The activity of the Pseudokarst Commission of the UIS between 2009 and 2013
2. Recapitulation of the past activity of the Pseudokarst Commission - discussion
3. Current activities, during the International Congress of Speleology in Brno
4. Expected events and future activities of the Commission
5. Decision on the date and place of the 13<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Pseudokarst
6. Decision concerning the establishing of a working group on the classification of non-karstic caves
7. Other remarks and conclusions

**Item 1.**

The report of activity of the Pseudokarst Commission of UIS between 2009 and 2013 was delivered by the president of the Commission, Jan Urban. It contained the following items: a) members and functionaries of the Commission, b) the assemblies of the Commission, c) events, d) publications, e) webpage, f) current activeness, g) future events.

**Item 2.**

- a.) Currently, the Commission is formed of 18 members, two honorary presidents and three functionaries
- b.) Assemblies:
  - 19-26<sup>th</sup> July 2009 during the Congress of UIS in Kerrville;
  - 13<sup>th</sup> May 2010 during the 11<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Pseudokarst in Saupsdorf;
  - 13<sup>th</sup> September 2012 during the 12<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Pseudokarst in Tui.
- c.) Events:
  - 11<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Pseudokarst in Saupsdorf, Germany (2010),
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Granite Caves in Nyneshämn, Sweden (2011),
  - 12<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Pseudokarst in Tui, Spain (2012)and several other meetings connected with pseudokarst.
- d.) Publications:
  - Proceedings of the 11<sup>th</sup> International Pseudokarst Symposium in Saupsdorf,
  - Pseudokarst Commission Newsletter one or twice a year (no. 20/2010, 21/2010, 22/2011, 23/2012),
  - reports from meetings published in the UIS Bulletin and national speleological or geological journals.
- e.) Webpage: edited by Hartmut Simmert, presents members and documents of the Commission, newsletters, publications, history etc.

No comment was formulated on the reported past activity of the Commission.

### **Item 3.**

Members of the Commission have been actively participating in preparation and direct organization of the 16<sup>th</sup> ICS Congress. Commission member J. Adamovič, was a convener of the Congress session dedicated to non-karst caves. About 20 papers on non karstic caves were presented during the Congress (6 by members of the Commission). The participants of the meeting expressed their gratitude to J. Adamovič and other organizers of the Congress for their perfect work.

### **Items 4. and 5.**

- a. The 13<sup>th</sup> International Pseudokarst Symposium in 2015 was proposed to be held in South Moravia (Czech Republic), with contributions on the management of Podyji National Park. Field trips were planned to Podyji National Park and Northern (Lower) Austria. This proposal was considered and accepted by participants of the meeting, however the final decision will be made by the potential organizers from the Pseudokarst Commission of the Czech Speleological Society and the Institute of Geonics AS CR in Brno, in agreement with the Austrian organizers from the Austrian Speleological Society and the Museum of Natural History in Vienna. The discussion on the meeting's organization will be coordinated by the functionaries of the Commission and should be concluded by the end of this year.
- b. The next (24<sup>th</sup>) issue of the Pseudokarst Newsletter should be published before the end of this year, therefore the deadline for the submission of manuscripts would be November 2013. The manuscripts should be sent to Jan Urban.

### **Item 6.**

- a. The problem of scientific definition of the term "pseudokarst" and the possibility of change of Commission's name was raised by the paper by R. Eberhard and Ch. Sharples: "Appropriate terminology for karst-like phenomena: the problem with 'pseudokarst'", which was recently published in the International Journal of Speleology. The authors proposed to avoid and displace the term "pseudokarst" in the scientific publications, because it ignored principles of classification, logical naming conventions and geomorphologic terminology. The problem was discussed by J. Urban, J.P. van der Pas, R. Pavuza, H. Simmert, Ch. Self, L. Gaál and H. de Swart, who generally agreed that "pseudokarst" is not well defined and should not be used as the genetic term describing the types of caves. However, this term has principal historical meaning and could be used as a motto for scientists and hobbyists studying/exploring non-karst caves. Consequently, the participants of the discussion concluded that the term "pseudokarst" is a very suitable and appropriate name for the Commission.
- b. The classification of non-karstic caves, as a progressive step in our understanding of "pseudokarst", was the last problem considered by participants of the meeting. The following measures were decided:
  1. P. Bella and L. Gaál would prepare a proposal of such a classification (on the basis of their paper "Genetic types of non-solution caves", Proc. 16<sup>th</sup> ICS, Brno, 2013, vol. 3: 237-242) containing the names, definitions, descriptions of features, examples of cave types.
  2. This proposal would be sent to the members of the Pseudokarst Commission, as well as to the representatives of the Volcanic Caves Commission (J.P. van der Pas), the Artificial Cavities Commission (M. Parise) and the Glacier, Firn and Ice Caves Commission (V. Maggi) for the discussion and supplementation.

3. The verified and supplemented paper, authorized by the main authors (P. Bella, L. Gaál) and other authors making significant contributions to it, will be presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> International Pseudokarst Symposium in 2015.
4. After recommendation of the Commission, the paper will be published in the International Journal of Speleology.

**Item 7.**

The participants of the meeting, who had not been members of the Pseudokarst Commission, yet, were asked to join it. In particular, P. Bella (Slovakia), as a future author of the classification of non-karst caves, was invited to become the Commission member.

*Recorded by L. Gaál and J. Urban*