

International Association of Geomorphologists

Newsletter No. 19 (2/2002)

IAG Symposium on the «Relationships between man and the mountain environment in terms of geomorphological hazards and human impact in Europe», Dornbirn (Austria), 14 July 2002

The United Nations has proclaimed 2002 as the International Year of Mountains (IYM) to increase international awareness of the global importance of mountain ecosystems. The aim of this initiative, rather than being a period of isolated events, is to serve as a springboard and catalyst for long-term, sustained and concrete action that will extend far beyond 2002.

Within the framework of the International Year of Mountains - 2002, an IAG Symposium will be held in Dornbirn (Vorarlberg, Austria) on Sunday 14 July 2002. The Symposium will be focused on the relationships between man and mountain environment, in particular as regard the human impact and the geomorphological hazards. These themes are of great concern and scientific research on natural hazards has recently significantly improved. New methodologies and approaches have been used to face the increased effects of extreme natural events due to natural climate variability, seismic phenomena, societal changes and human development. The need for new urban and industrial land is high even in mountain areas, where often the development takes place in fragile areas. The aim of the research in this field is to assess and mitigate hazards before they take place and to define procedures of Environmental Impact Assessment in perspective of a sustainable development, highlighting the socio-economic impact of natural hazards and enhancing the most appropriate policies for a correct and safe management of the environment.

The aim of this IAG Symposium is to provide a forum on how to cope with natural hazards and environmental impact using the most advanced methods and techniques. Topics of interest include:

- the role of geomorphology in natural hazard and environmental impact assessment
- integrated approaches to hazard and impact assessment and mitigation
- hazard mapping techniques
- hazard monitoring and alert systems
- human impact on geosites
- geomorphological asset evaluation.

The IAG Symposium will be included in the programme of a one-week Summer School which will be held between July 7th and 14th under the aegis of UNESCO and will focus on «*An introduction into alpine and subalpine environments in a key sector of the northern Alps*» and of a one-week Intensive Course which will be held between July 14th and 21st under the aegis of CERG (European Center on Geomorphological Hazards, Council of Europe, Strasbourg) on «*An introduction into alpine and subalpine environments in a key sector of the northern Alps with emphasis on natural hazards and risks*». For further information on the Summer School and on the Intensive Course, please check the web sites

<http://www.geomorph.org/sp/arch/0702school.html> and
<http://www.geomorph.org/sp/arch/0702course.htm>.

From the Mediterranean Area Toward a Global Geological Renaissance. Geology, Natural Hazards and Cultural Heritage

Italy welcomes the 32nd session of the International Geological Congress. Florence, 20-28 August, 2004. 123 years after the 2nd session in Bologna in 1881, the International Geological Congress returns to Italy.

Scientific Programme

7 plenary lectures, given by eminent scientists, on subjects relevant to the main focus of the conference.

24 general symposia, with volunteered presentations only, addressing topics from all areas of the Earth Sciences.

36 topical symposia, with both invited and volunteered presentations, addressing specific themes.

11 Special symposia, with invited presentations only, addressing interdisciplinary and frontier themes.

5 pre-congress, 12 during-congress and 7 post-congress workshops providing an occasion for geoscientists to discuss issues concerning themes of common interest.

10 pre-congress, 4 during-congress and 8 post-congress short courses. They provide educational and/or technical training opportunities under qualified lecturers. The format includes hands-on activities and practical exercises.

The Scientific Program Committee will consider further proposals for symposia, workshops and short courses.

Field Trips (pre- and post Congress)

73 field trips in Italy.

30 Field trips in Countries adhering to the Mediterranean Consortium.

A special excursion across the ranges of Central Asia is offered in June/July 2004.

Mediterranean Consortium

This is an association of thirty one Mediterranean and nearby countries which are cooperating with Italy in the organization of the Congress.

The Transmed Project represents the main scientific initiative of the Mediterranean Consortium.

Geoexpo

The most important worldwide exhibit of products related to the Geological Sciences. It will be open from 21 to 28 August 2004 at the Congress Center - Firenze Expo.

Government agencies and academic institutions may highlight progress in their research, education and mapping activities. Geoscience-related industries may demonstrate new technologies, instruments, equipments and show case histories.

Geobost

The Geobost program will help individual scientists from developing countries to attend the Congress.

First Circular

If you have not received the First Circular, you can either read and download it from the website: <http://www.32igc.org>.

Those planning to attend Congress are strongly encouraged to complete and submit the questionnaire on-line not later than August 31, 2002. President: Attilio Boriani, University of Milan
Secretary General: Ernesto Abbate, University of Florence
For any request of information please contact the Scientific Secretariat:
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Croatian Geomorphological Society

It was founded in Zagreb on 7 June, 2002. The first meeting and election of presidium was held at the Department of Geography, University of Zagreb. About 40 geomorphologists, hydrologists, geologists and secondary school teachers were present. The Slovenian Geomorphological Committee was represented by four geomorphologists, among them Prof. Dr. Ivan Gams and Dr. Karel Natek (President) from Ljubljana. IAG was represented by Dénes Lóczy (Secretary).
President: Prof Dr Andrija Bognar.
Secretary: Sanja Faivre. She is also contact person (University of Zagreb Faculty of Sciences Department of Geography 10000 Zagreb PP 595, Phone: + 385 1 48 95 422; Fax: + 385 1 48 95 440; e-mail: sfaivre@public.srce.hr).

The CGS has expressed its intention to apply to become a National Scientific Member of IAG within a short term.

Young Geomorphologists

The selection procedure of the «young geomorphologists» who submitted requests for IAG (and UNESCO) grants enabling them to participate in the training courses to be held in Dornbirn (Austria) next July has been completed. Please find below the results of this selection.

The Selection Committee was chaired by Mauro Soldati and included Jean-Claude Flageollet, Leo De Graaff and Mario Panizza.

IAG Grants for *Summer School* (Dornbirn, Austria, 7-14 July 2002):

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1) Zoraya Martinez (Colombia) | IAG grant assigned |
| 2) Nimalanathan Angusamy (India) | IAG grant assigned |
| 3) Ahmed Zegrar (Algeria) | waiting list |
| 4) Sanjeeva Malaviarachchi (Sri Lanka) | waiting list |

IAG Grants for *CERG Intensive Course* (Dornbirn, Austria, 14-21 July 2002):

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1) Deb Jyoti Pal (India) | IAG grant assigned |
| 2) Stella Maris Moreiras (Argentina) | IAG grant assigned |
| 3) Jorge Villamarin (Colombia) | waiting list |
| 4) Vikram Gupta (Turkey) | waiting list |
| 5) Sucheta Mukherjee (India) | waiting list |

UNESCO Grants for *Summer School* (Dornbirn, Austria, 7-14 July 2002) have been assigned to Sunil Kumar De (India) and Solofo Rakotontraompiana (Madagascar).

– The «young geomorphologists» who have obtained an IAG GRANT will receive 1000 (one thousand) Euros cash upon arrival in Dornbirn (Austria) from the IAG Treasurer.

In addition, for those «young geomorphologists»

- IAG will provide to pay the due Summer/Intensive Course fees to the organisers of the Courses (100 Euros);
- the participation in the IAG Symposium of 14 July will be free of charge.

Bedrock Rivers Discussion Forum

As part of this initiative a web based discussion forum has been established at the address below. Any interested party can log-on within this site, which is intended to promote discussion of relevant issues,

advertise forthcoming meetings and provide access to materials such as images for research and teaching.

The International Association of Geomorphologists is sponsoring a «Working Group on Hydrology and Geomorphology of Bedrock Rivers» see: <http://www.geomorph.org/wg/wghgbr.html>
<http://www.geog.soton.ac.uk/research/bedrock/>
Professor Paul Carling:
Department of Geography
Highfield
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E-mail: P.A.Carling@soton.ac.uk
<http://www.soton.ac.uk/~envsci/>
<http://www.geog.soton.ac.uk/home/default.asp>
<http://www.soton.ac.uk/~geog>

Notable book on Lake Sedimentology returns to print

I thought you would be interested to know that Principles of Lake Sedimentology, the first comprehensive textbook on the subject, has been brought back into print by The Blackburn Press. From a multi-disciplinary perspective, the book defines and discusses fundamental physical, chemical and biological sediment parameters. It covers the sedimentological mechanisms in the lake water, on the lake bottom and within sediments. It also stresses the role of sedimentology in lake management and control, with a special focus on nutrients and metals.

When it was originally published in 1983, it was called «a major contribution to this relatively new field». Transactions of the American Fisheries Society

«The book should be welcomed and read by limnologists of many persuasions and it will be invaluable for workers in the fields of aquatic pollution and the environment. It could also serve as a textbook for advanced limnology courses and altogether may end up as a classic within its field». Freshwater Biology.

For more information, we invite you to point your browser to:
<http://www.blackburnpress.com/prinoflaksed.html>

The Blackburn Press is a relatively new publishing company, founded with the mission of keeping in print and available for purchase at reasonable prices book titles that larger publishers have lost interest in and have declared to be «out of print». We specialize in scientific and technical books and textbooks; most are classics in their field. We are interested in hearing about other out-of-print titles we might consider returning to print. Your suggestions are welcome.

Andrea Herbert

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The Holocene

A major interdisciplinary journal focusing on recent environment change. Now ranked 7th in the *Geosciences - Interdisciplinary category* with an impact factor 2.462 in SCI Index 2000. No other journal caters for the specific interdisciplinary needs of the large international community of scientists working on the Holocene. If you would like a free sample copy please e-mail to ejournal@hodder.co.uk, phone +44(0)20 7873 6358. Arnold Journals, 338 Euston Road, London NW1 3BH, UK.

IAG Symposium on «...High Mountains...» Ethiopia, 9-10 December, 2002

The United Nations has proclaimed 2002 as the International Year of Mountains (IYM) to increase international awareness of the global importance of mountain ecosystems. In this frame, the IAG «*International Symposium on Climate Changes, Active Tectonics and Related Geomorphic Effects in High Mountain Belts and Plateaux*» will provide tools to understand the triggering factors and the evolution of extreme natural events due to climate variability and seismic/volcanic phenomena, in order to assess and mitigate natural hazards.

The Symposium will be preceded by a field trip on «Geomorphology of the Ethiopian Rift» (4-8 Dec. 2002). The topics of the field trip will be: active tectonics and tectonic landforms; volcanism and volcanic geomorphology; quaternary lake levels; gullies and soil erosion; quaternary stratigraphy and geo-archaeology.

The Symposium will be followed by another field trip on «Geomorphology of Northern Highlands». The topics of the field trip will be: earthquake ground faulting; landslides; structural landforms; planation surfaces; holocene stratigraphy; travertine dams; gullies and piping; field experiments on soil erosion; axumite archaeology.

For further information, please refer to Dr. Paola Molin: p.molin@uniroma3.it or to the IAG web site (<http://www.geomorph.org/main.html>).

The IAG Executive Committee wish to offer 2 grants to 2 young geomorphologists from African Countries (Ethiopia excluded) for participating in the Symposium. The confirmation and possible further details will be available on the IAG web site (<http://www.geomorph.org/main.html>), starting from the end of July 2002.

10th Meeting at Kalgoorlie, in Western Australia

The Australia New Zealand Geomorphology Group will be holding its 10th Meeting at Kalgoorlie, in Western Australia, from 30 September - 4 October 2002. We particularly welcome international visitors who can make it to the conference. Kalgoorlie is in a very old landscape that also hosts considerable mineral deposits. The superpit, on the outskirts of Kalgoorlie, is an enormous hole in the ground, and must be seen to be believed. Check out the ANZGG web site for information about the conference, and links to information about Kalgoorlie:

<http://www.agso.gov.au/anzgg/>
Colin.Pain@ga.gov.au
for the Organising Committee

Canadian Conference on Geotechnique and Natural Hazards

The 3rd Canadian Conference on Geotechnique and Natural Hazards will be held in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada from June 8 to 10, 2003. It follows the successful conferences in Vancouver in 1992 and Montreal in 2000, and will highlight recent advances in geohazard risk assessment and mitigation in Canada. A collection of keynote speakers, papers, and poster presentations will be incorporated into a two-day, single session conference. The deadline for submitting abstracts is September 30, 2002. Please visit

<http://www.geohazards2003.eba.ca> for more details.
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Proceedings of the Fifth International Conference on Geomorphology, Tokyo, 2001

As parts of the Proceedings, two issues were published by the Japanese Geomorphological Union as follows.

(1) «A Summary of Proceedings» edited by T. Suzuki: Transactions, Japanese Geomorphological Union, Vol. 23, No. 1, pp. 1-100 (January, 2002).

You are able to read this Summary on the IAG (www.geomorph.org) and JGU (www.soc.nii.ac.jp/jgu/) websites.

(2) Special issue on «Rock Control in Geomorphological Processes» edited by T. Suzuki, Y. Matsukura, J. Ehlen, and Y. Tanaka: Transactions, Japanese Geomorphological Union, Vol. 23, No. 2, pp. 159-355 (March, 2002), including 9 papers.

Detailed information about this book is available on the IAG Web-site (www.geomorph.org).

The first 50 colleagues only will be presented each of both copies free of charge. Contact: T. Suzuki, Chair of the Organizing Committee of the 5th ICG (e-mail: takas@kc.chuo-u.ac.jp).

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Books in Spanish

«Natural Disasters in Latin America», 501 pages, by J. Lugo-Hubp and M. Inbar, with 25 chapters of 50 authors, includes natural phenomenon during the 20th Century related with volcanoes, earthquakes, hurricanes, landslides, forest on fire, drought and floods. «Desastres naturales en América Latina». To be sold in in México: <http://www.fce.com.mx>.

«Climatic Geomorphology» (Geomorfología climática) is an appreciable contribution at geomorphology in this book by Mateo Gutiérrez Elorza, professor in the Universidad de Zaragoza. It is about modern themes in geomorphology with support of extens bibliographical material and the experience of the author; plus the magnificent photos in color from some regions in the world.

Editor's Note

The success of the IAG-Newsletter depends upon the contributions that we receive. Please assist by sending commentaries, reviews of regional or national meetings and field trips, summaries of issues pertinent to geomorphology, and announcements of future meetings and workshops. Your contributions should be forwarded to José Lugo Hubp, Instituto de Geografía, UNAM; Ciudad Universitaria; 04510 México, D.F., México Fax: 52 55 56162145; E-mail: lugoh@servidor.unam.mx.

International Association of Geomorphologists

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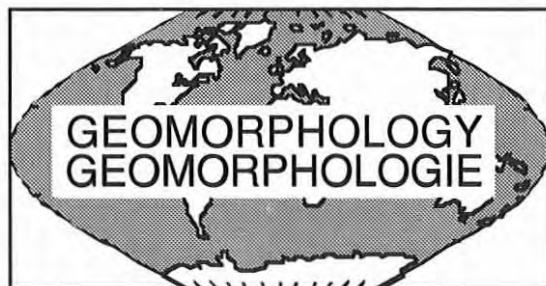
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Visit the IAG Web Site at: <http://www.geomorph.org>



International Association of Geomorphologists

Newsletter No. 19 (3/2002)

Minutes of IAG Executive Committee Meeting, Dornbirn (Austria), 15 July 2002

Members present: M. Panizza, President; D. Lóczy, Secretary; A. Ozer, Treasurer; A. Pérez-González and M. Soldati, Members.

Apologies for absence: A. Goudie, E. Latrubesse, J. Lugo-Hubp, Z. Zwolinski.

1. News from the President

Minutes of the Administrative Meeting held in Brussels on 10 November 2001 are delivered and discussed. An annual report on IAG activities is required by IUGS. D. Lóczy will prepare it. Correspondence with Anne Buttner, IGU President, concerning collaboration between IGU and IAG is delivered. A collaboration between IAG and IGU in the framework of the «Year of the Water 2003» is hoped. A. Pérez-González is asked by the President to contact WGs 1, 5 and 6 in order to promote joint initiatives.

2. IAG Constitution

The new Constitution was ratified at the IAG Tokyo Conference. A. Ozer is asked to prepare a French version and send it to the Secretary. M. Panizza will send the new Constitution to IGU and IUGS Presidents for approval and to be forwarded to ICSU.

3. Working Groups

A. Pérez-González delivers a report about the activity of WGs. A report of the «Geomorphological sites» WG is delivered together with a Proceedings volume of the IAG Workshop held in Modena (Italy) in June 2002: the EC expresses its appreciation for the work carried out. New Chairman for the «Geoarchaeology» WG is Prof. E. Fouache, Université de Paris 4. It is decided an exceptional support to the «Volcanology» WG for USD 200. A. Ozer is to send letters to all Working Group chairmen to inform them on what conditions they can receive the initial grant of USD 500. A. Pérez-González will send a letter to WG chairmen to encourage presentations at the Mexico Regional Conference (2003) and to ask them to organise a Symposium at the Zaragoza International Conference (2005) and participate in the IGU Glasgow and IUGS Florence International Congresses (2004).

4. Publication activity

J. Lugo-Hubp will be requested to prepare a report on the publication activity with particular reference to the Newsletters. M. Panizza delivers a letter of A. Goudie concerning the Jan de Ploey Library and the Project of the Encyclopedia of Geomorphology: The EC expresses its appreciation for this Project. A. Ozer distributes copies of Applied Geomorphology (edited by R. Allison, published by Wiley) among EC members. Further copies are donated to the De Ploey Library. The EC appreciates the publication of this volume. D. Lóczy is to send an e-mail to Z. Zwolinski in order to report on the web site about 3 new IAG publications: Applied Geomorphology by R. Allison; Proceedings of the Modena Workshop (copies are available from coratza.paola@unimore.it); Proceedings of the IAG Symposium in Dornbirn (copies are available from borgatti.lisa@unimore.it). M. Soldati is invited to send a copy of the Proceedings of the Modena Workshop and Dornbirn Symposium to each of the WGs Coordinators, enclosing a letter of A. Pérez-González inviting the same Coordinators to possibly follow the same style for eventual IAG publications deriving from similar initiatives. Jan De Ploey Library: M. Soldati delivers to A. Ozer 20 copies of the Dornbirn Proceedings and will send by post 20 copies of the Proceedings of the Modena Workshop.

5. National Delegates

New national associations were formed in Croatia and Egypt. The EC accepted their application to be National Scientific Members of IAG. D. Lóczy will send e-mails to all National Delegates for approval. If there is no reply within 2 months, it means no objection. Future members (organisation of national association is underway): Madagascar, Cameroon, Georgia, Macedonia, Mongolia.

6. Financial situation

The Executive Committee discusses the membership fees each country has to pay. It is decided that some countries in unfavourable economic situation should not pay membership fees but send an Annual Report of their activities to the IAG Secretary instead.

7. Training and grants

Four grants for young geomorphologists from developing countries have been awarded to enable participation in training courses held under

the aegis of IAG: UNESCO Summer School in Dornbirn, Austria (July 2002): 2 grants awarded; CERG Intensive Course in Dornbirn, Austria (July 2002): 2 grants awarded. Two grants are available for young geomorphologists from Africa presenting papers or posters at the IAG Symposium in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (December 2002) (total EUR 2000). Two grants for young geomorphologists from Eastern Europe will be awarded in order to enable participation in the «Research design short course» to be held in Windsor, UK (December 2002) (total EUR 1000). Two grants will be offered to young geomorphologist from Latin America for participation in an Intensive course to be held in Mexico in occasion of the Regional Conference of 2003 (total EUR 2000). IAG intensive course on natural risks, Orvieto, spring 2003 - request of funding has been presented to ICSU through IUGS. The proposal has been accepted for evaluation by ICSU.

8. Newsletter

J. Lugo-Hubp is to put the IAG account number into the next Newsletter.

9. Jan de Ploey Library

Issues to be discussed and approved in a future administrative meeting.

10. Next EC Meeting

The next EC Meeting will be held in Mexico City at the end of October 2003 in occasion of the Mexico Regional Conference. An intermediate meeting or/and an administrative meeting may be planned, if necessary.

11. Mexico Regional Conference

M. Panizza delivers a preliminary programme of the Conference (27 October - 1 November 2003) agreed with Irasema Alcantara-Ayala. The Conference will be preceded by an Intensive Course for young geomorphologists and followed by Field-trips.

12. International 2004 Congresses: IGU (Glasgow) and IUGS (Florence)

M. Panizza informs that during August 2004 the IGU Congress in Glasgow (UK) and the IUGS Congress in Florence (Italy) will be held, with no overlapping among each other. M. Panizza expresses his strong wish that as many geomorphologists as possible take part in the geomorphological initiatives planned in both Congresses.

13. Other IAG Conferences

M. Panizza reminds the IAG International Symposium on «Climate changes, active tectonics and related geomorphic effects in high mountain belts and plateaux», Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (December 2002), in the frame of the International Year of the Mountains.

14. International Conference on Geomorphology 2005, Zaragoza (Spain)

M. Panizza refers about the contacts had with Prof. M. Gutiérrez Elorza about the organisation of the Conference.

15. Administrative Meeting

The EC feels the need for an EC Administrative Meeting in Bruxelles (11 October 2002).

16. Other matters

M. Panizza suggests that an IAG badge as well as an IAG medal should be designed and produced.

IAG Workshop on «Geomorphological sites: research, assessment and improvements», Modena (Italy), 19-22 June 2002

The International Workshop «Geomorphological sites: research, assessment and improvement» was the first official meeting opportunity for two research groups working on the topic of geomorphological sites (*geomorphosites*): the IAG Working Group «Geomorphological sites» (Co-ordinator Emmanuel Reynard) and the Italian Research Project COFIN 2001 «Geosites in the Italian landscape» (Co-ordinator: Sandra Piacente).

This meeting was joined by several Italian and foreign researchers interested in this topic and willing to co-operate to the research on geomorphosites. This Workshop was the first occasion to discuss several aspects that could be of interest for the IAG Working Group:

- a first discussion on the activity already in progress between the components of the two research groups;
- defining the state-of-the-art of the investigations on geosites, with particular attention to those with a geomorphological character;
- comparing, connecting and tracing the course of the respective research activities;
- outlining future perspectives and activities connected to the IUGS International Geological Congress which will take place in Florence in August 2004.

During the Workshop a proposition for a general meeting in October 2003 in Sardinia was made. A second administrative meeting should also be organised in Lausanne in spring 2003.

IAG Symposium on the «Relationships between man and the mountain environment in terms of geomorphological hazards and human impact in Europe», Dornbirn (Austria), 14 July 2002

The IAG Symposium was held in Dornbirn (Vorarlberg, Austria), on Sunday 14 July 2002, within the framework of the International Year of Mountains - 2002.

The interest and the participation in the Symposium was relevant: more than one hundred people joined the Symposium. The scientific value was extremely high and the contributions dealt with different aspects of the mountain environment in terms of geomorphological hazards and human impact. After six invited lectures given by Antonio Cendrero (University of Cantabria, Spain), Berthold Bauer (University of Vienna, Austria), Jean-Claude Flageollet (CERG, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France), Angelique Prick (University Courses on Svalbard, Norway), Fabio Luino (National Research Council, Turin, Italy) and Thomas Glade (University of Bonn, Germany), the presentation of four selected papers was given and in the poster session more than 30 posters were presented.

The audience has been international and scientists as well as many young geomorphologists came from 13 European countries and from India, Colombia, Argentina and New Zealand.

The output of the Symposium are going to be published as a Special Issue of «Geomorphology».

This Symposium took place between two important events devoted to young researchers:

- a one-week *Summer School*, held between July 7th and 14th under the aegis of UNESCO on «An introduction into alpine and subalpine environments in a key sector of the northern Alps» and
- a one-week *Intensive Course*, held between July 14th and 21st under the aegis of CERG (European Centre for Geomorphological Hazards, Council of Europe, Strasbourg) on «An introduction into alpine and subalpine environments in a key sector of the northern Alps with emphasis on natural hazards and risks».

IAG, following its policy of sustaining young geomorphologists, with particular attention to those coming from developing countries, has offered four grants (two for each course) which have been assigned to: Nimalanathan Angusamy (India), Stella Maris Moreiras (Argentina), Deb Jyoti Pal (India) and Jorge Villamarin (Colombia).

Editor's Note

This Newsletter, together with No. 19 (4/2002), is published late owing to the sudden resignation of the IAG Publication Officer José Lugo-Hubp, due to health problems. Both Newsletters have been prepared by IAG EC Members D. Lóczy and M. Soldati. We apologise for the delay and wish to reassure you that Newsletter No. 20 (1/2003) will be issued regularly, and will be prepared by an EC Member with the specific assignment of Publication Officer.

The success of the IAG-Newsletter depends upon the contributions that we receive. Please assist by sending commentaries, reviews of regional or national meetings and field trips, summaries of issues pertinent to geomorphology, and announcements of future meetings and workshops. Temporarily, your contributions should be forwarded to the IAG President, Mario Panizza (see address below).

International Association of Geomorphologists

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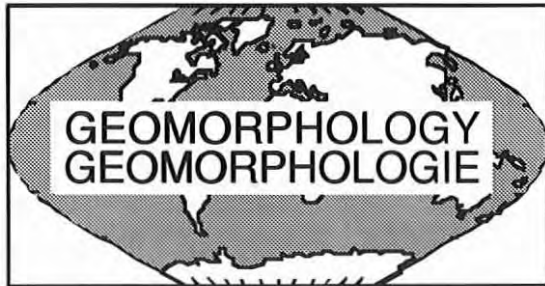
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International Association of Geomorphologists

Newsletter No. 19 (4/2002)

IAG Regional Geomorphological Conference, Mexico City, October 27th to November 2nd 2003, «Geomorphic hazards: towards the prevention of disasters»

Taken from the 2nd Circular

The International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG) and the Mexican Society of Geomorphology (SMG) cordially invites you to participate in the next Regional Geomorphological Conference. The Conference is aimed to geomorphologists and professionals in associated disciplines interested in geomorphic hazards, and environmental topics related to disasters, to exchange techniques, experience, knowledge, and ideas in geomorphic hazards and related issues in an effective and friendly atmosphere. A fundamental goal of the Conference is the interaction of specialists to gain a better understanding of geomorphic hazards and the application of this knowledge to prevent disasters.

Scientific Programme

- S1. Volcanic Geomorphology and Hazards (*by the IAG Working Group Geomorphic Consequences of Volcanic Events, including Hazards*)
- S2. Extreme Events and River Basins (*by the IAG Working Group on Large Rivers*)
- S3. Hazards and Hazard Management in Bedrock Channels (*by the IAG Working Group on Hydrology and Geomorphology of Bedrock Channels*)
- S4. Hillslope Processes and Hazards
- S5. Soil Erosion and Geomorphic Features of Land Degradation (*by the IGU Commission on Land Degradation and Desertification, COM-LAND*)
- S6. Desertification, Land Degradation and Sandstorms in Arid and Semi-arid Regions (*by the IAG Working Group on Arid Regions*)
- S7. Coastal Geomorphology and Hazards
- S8. Morphotectonics and Seismic Hazards
- S9. GIS, Remote Sensing and Hazards Assessment
- S10. Geomorphology and Disasters
- S11. Usage of Hazard Maps by Local and Regional Authorities (*by Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative - EMI*)
- S12. Hazard and Vulnerability Assessments for Risk Analysis and Risk Management (*by the IGU Hazards and Risks Commission*)
- S13. Disaster Reduction Strategies on Local, Regional and National Level using Geomorphic Information
- S14. Hazards, Vulnerability and Public Policies (*by the National Institute of Ecology, INE*)
- S15. A geomorphic «Hodgepodge» (*devoted to all geomorphic topics not included within the other sessions*).

<i>Date</i>	<i>Activities</i>
October 25	Young Geomorphologists' course
October 26	Young Geomorphologists' course, Executive Committee Meeting of IAG
October 27	Opening Ceremony, Informal General Assembly of IAG Papers, Symposia, and Plenary Lectures, Welcome party
October 28	Papers, Symposia, Posters, Plenary Lectures, Informal Council Meeting of IAG
October 29-30	Papers, Symposia, Posters, Plenary Lectures
October 31	Papers, Symposia, Posters, Plenary Lectures, Closing ceremony, Farewell dinner party
November 1	One-day Mexican traditional excursion to celebrate the Day of the Dead One-day field excursions
November 2	Departure of post-Conference excursions.

Post-Conference Field Trips

Popocatepetl volcano (Volcanic geomorphology, evidence of past catastrophic eruptions, present activity and prevention of volcanic disasters), Paricutin volcano (Volcanic geomorphology, volcanic forms and processes in a monogenetic field), Cuenca de Oriental-Sierra Norte de Puebla (Explosive volcanism landforms, mass movement processes), Central Mexico (Querétaro, San Luis Potosí and Guanajuato, Evidence of environmental and groundwater interactions, subsidence).

Registration Fee

- Early registration fee (before February 28 th , 2003)	275 USD
- Early student registration fee (before February 28 th , 2003)	200 USD
- Regular registration fee (before September 30 th , 2003)	325 USD
- Student registration fee (before September 30 th , 2003)	250 USD
- Accompanying persons (before February 28 th , 2003)	150 USD
- Accompanying persons (before September 30 th , 2003)	175 USD
- On site registration fee	350 USD
- On site student registration fee	275 USD
- On site accompanying persons	200 USD

Financial Assistance to Young Geomorphologists

To encourage young geomorphologists to participate in this conference, the organisers have established two different programmes, offering some assistance (travel, accommodation or registration fees). The first programme is especially targeted to young geomorphologists from developing and economically disadvantaged countries of Latin America; the second is open to geomorphologists from any other country. For each of

these programmes, a few awards will be made available to qualified candidates to attend the Conference. The deadline for receipt of applications is February 28, 2003. Applications should be sent to Dr. Irasema Alcántara-Ayala (Instituto de Geografía, UNAM, Circuito Exterior, Ciudad Universitaria, Coyoacán, 04510, Mexico, D.F. Mexico City, Mexico, E-mail: irasema@igiris.igeograf.unam.mx)

Aztec Calendar

Deadline for early registration	28 February, 2003
Submission of abstracts	31 March, 2003
Notification of acceptance of abstracts	30 April, 2003
Deadline for hotel reservations	30 June, 2003
Deadline for payment of field excursions	30 June, 2003
Deadline for regular registration	30 September, 2003

Organising Committee

Irasema Alcántara-Ayala, Gerardo Bocco-Verdinelli, Lorenzo Vazquez-Salem, José Juan Zamorano-Orozco, José Lugo-Hubp, José Luis Palacio-Prieto.

For more details concerning one-day field trips, registration and payment, financial assistance, abstract submission, accommodation and other general information, please see the Conference website: <http://www.smg.igeograf.unam.mx/>

IAG Symposium on «Climate changes, active tectonics and related geomorphic effects in high mountain belts and plateaux», Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), 9-10 December 2002

The Symposium was convened by the IAG and co-sponsored by INQUA, Working Group on Mountain Building, AIGeo - Italian Association of Physical Geography and Geomorphology, and BAG - Belgian Association of Geomorphologists, in the frame of the International Year of Mountains. The Symposium consisted of a two days conference (9-10 December, 2002), held at the Italian Institute of Culture of Addis Ababa, a five days pre-symposium field trip in the Rift Valley, a five days post-symposium field trip to the highlands of northern Ethiopia, and a five days post-symposium field trip extension to the Semien Mountains and Lake Tana. More than 90 participants from 14 countries in the world attended the symposium and 45 papers were introduced as oral (23) and poster (22) presentations.

The pre-symposium field trip in the Rift Valley dealt with several issues of active tectonics, recent volcanism and their related landforms, with spectacular examples of fault scarps, hanging valleys, waterfalls and tectonically controlled drainage patterns and erosion and sediment yield processes were shown to the participants. The field observation of Quaternary stratigraphy, valley fill and gully formation gave rise to discussion on the relative effectiveness of climate changes and human impact on affecting the geomorphological evolution of the area during the mid-late Holocene.

The Symposium was characterised by presentations covering a wide range of topics including: recent volcanism, neo-tectonics, Quaternary climate changes and slope instability. At the end of the conference, a round table with local authorities, officials and journalists was held on «Geo-environmental Challenges on Sustainable Development».

Social events consisted of a dinner invitation, offered by the Italian Ambassador, Dr. Guido La Tella, at the Italian Embassy Residence and a conference farewell party in a traditional restaurant with an amusing full immersion in local cultural music and dance.

The post-symposium excursion, in which 36 participants took part, included structural landforms, planation surfaces, slope erosion processes and deposits, piping and gully formation, and travertine dams. A spectacular view of the Mekele plateau could be taken at a glance from the top of the Amba Aradam mountain. Field experiments on soil erosion control and the role played by stone cover and earth buns were illustrated by the Belgian colleagues in the surroundings of Hegere Selam. The visit to an impressive travertine dam of Holocene age near the village of Mai Maikden was made. On the way from Adigrat to Axum the excursionists had a chance to see many striking features including: planation surfaces, Paleozoic glacial deposits, deep canyons and volcanic necks (Adwa Mountains). The field trip ended up in Axum where the world famous stele camp was visited.

The 13 participants in the post-symposium field trip extension had the chance of visiting the Semien Mountains, the highest relief of Ethiopia (4620 m), where glacial and periglacial landforms are present. Subsequently, after a stop in the town of Gondar, the group moved to the Tana Lake, whose geomorphological setting is visibly conditioned by recent tectonics. The last topics of the excursion were the spectacular Blue Nile waterfall and, on the way to Addis Ababa, the 1000 m deep Blue Nile valley, where the whole Ethiopian sedimentary sequence outcrops.

Young Geomorphologists

IAG Grants for the Symposium on «Climate changes, active tectonics and related geomorphic effects in high mountain belts and plateaux», Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), 9-10 December 2002

The selection procedure of the African candidates who submitted a request for an IAG grant has been completed, upon examination of the candidates' curricula and abstracts to be presented at the Symposium. IAG Grants have been awarded to Youcef Bouhadad (Algeria) and Stefan Grab (South Africa). In addition, the Italian Association of Physical Geography and Geomorphology (AIGeo), co-sponsor of the Symposium, offered two additional grants which have been awarded to Solofo Rakotondraompiana (Madagascar) and Ahmed Zegrar (Algeria).

IAG Grants for the «Research Design Short Course for Geomorphology Students», Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park (UK), 9-12 December 2002

The selection procedure of the candidates who submitted a request for an IAG grant has been completed, upon examination of the candidates' curricula and PhD research project abstract.

IAG grants have been awarded to Grzegorz Synowiec (Poland) and Yulia Fuzcina (Russia).

Activities of the IAG Hungarian National Committee

Every year Hungarian geomorphologists gather for a half-day paper session and discussion and a full-day field trip at various universities, colleges and research institutes. Nowadays this occasion is of great importance since the number of geomorphologists has recently risen from ca 50 to almost 80. This spectacular growth is due to the employment of large numbers of young researchers and of PhD students at universities.

In 2001 the Department of Physical Geography at the University of Szeged organised a Hungarian Geographical Conference for both physical and human geographers. Out of the ca 100 oral and almost 100 poster presentations, 53 papers were read in physical geographical and geomorphological sections, including Theory and Practice in Physical Geography, Soil Geography, Landscape Geography, Hydrogeography, Land Use Change, Regional Geomorphology, Impacts of Climate Change and Human impacts on the Environment. The most popular issues in geomorphology are river rehabilitation, flood hazard, karst evolution, periglacial processes, volcanic reconstructions etc. A workshop was organised to discuss the change of paradigm in flood control.

In 2002 the annual geomorphological meeting in Eger, organized by the Department of Geography and the Department of Environmental Sciences at the Esterházy Károly College, was expanded into a conference of six sessions on fundamental and applied geomorphological issues. The subsequent field trip led the participants to the Bükk limestone mountains and its volcanic foreland.

Solidarity to the Mexican Colleagues (28 January 2003)

To Dr. Irasema Alcántara-Ayala, Mexico National Delegate of IAG
Dear Irasema,
on behalf of the International Association of Geomorphologists and my own, I want to express to you and all the Mexican Colleagues all our solidarity for the victims and the devastation that your country has suffered because of the disastrous earthquake of these days.

With all my feelings of friendship and sympathy,

Mario Panizza, IAG President

Obituary of Márton Pécsi (1923-2003)

The internationally most renowned figure of Hungarian geomorphology died on 23 January, 2003. He was director of the Geographical Research Institute, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, for 28 years. He was Secretary General and then President of the Hungarian Geographical Society, honorary member of seven geographical societies abroad, on the editorial boards of several international journals. He acted as President of the Loess Commission of INQUA and was decorated by the Hungarian State Prize and Széchenyi Prize. His most significant scientific results are associated with Quaternary and loess research, geomorphological mapping, river terrace morphology, landslides, long-term relief evolution, assessment of the physical environment and engineering geomorphology. Generations of Hungarian geomorphologists share the grief of his passing.

Dénes Lóczy

On behalf of all the IAG and my own, I wish to express the deepest sympathy to the family and all the colleagues who had the opportunity to know and appreciate a dearest friend and excellent geomorphologist, Prof. Márton Pécsi.

Mario Panizza

Editor's Note

This Newsletter, together with No. 19 (3/2002), is published late owing to the sudden resignation of the IAG Publication Officer José Lugo-Hubp, due to health problems. Both Newsletters have been prepared by IAG EC Members D. Lóczy and M. Soldati. We apologise for the delay and wish to reassure you that Newsletter No. 20 (1/2003) will be issued regularly, and will be prepared by an EC Member with the specific assignment of Publication Officer.

The success of the IAG Newsletter depends upon the contributions that we receive. Please assist by sending commentaries, reviews of regional or national meetings and field trips, summaries of issues pertinent to geomorphology, and announcements of future meetings and workshops. Temporarily, your contributions should be forwarded to the IAG President, Mario Panizza (see address below).

International Association of Geomorphologists

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