

Report

of activity of the Pseudokarst Commission of UIS between 2013 and 2015

Functionaries of the Commission:

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, Pavel Bella, William R. Halliday, Erich Knust, Włodzimierz Margielewski, Jan Paul van der Pas, Juan Ramón Vidal Romani, Hartmut Simmert, Rabbe Sjöberg, Herman de Swart, George Szentes, Maurizio Tavagnutti, Tiberiu Tulucan, Marcos Vaqueiro Rodriguez, Marina Vdovets, Lukáš Vlček, Josef Wagner, Karel Žák.

Assembly of the Commission

The assembly took place during the 16th International Congress of Speleology in Brno, 25th July 2013; in this meeting the report of the Commission activity in 2009-2013 was presented.

Events (meetings):

- The assembly taking place during the 16th International Congress of Speleology in Brno, 25th July 2013 and gathered 17 persons from 11th countries (3 continents), among which 11 persons were formal members of the Commission.
- During the 16th International Congress of Speleology in Brno three half-day scientific sessions were dedicated to the “Karst and caves in other rocks” i.e. widely understood pseudokarst. These sessions were perfectly prepared and conveyed by J. Adamovič. They included 21 presentations on non-karst, probably-karst, possibly-karst, partly-karst, more-or-less-karst as well as karst-like caves and cavities.

Publications:

- Comprehensive abstracts, practically papers of the presentations given during the “pseudokarst sessions” of the Congress in Brno, 2013, were published in printed volume of the Congress materials.
- 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. The following numbers were published: no 24 (February 2014) and no 25 (February 2015). The Newsletter is distributed both in digital version by internet and in printed copies by mail among people preferring this form. The printed version was financially granted by UIS Bureau until 2015. Both issues, 24 and 25, include 12 scientific or popular-scientific papers as well as several short notices, event announcements and reports.
- Closely related to the Commission activity and prepared by its members, I. Eszterhás and G. Szentes, is „List of non-karst caves of Hungary” – digital database accessible via internet since December 2014. The database presents short descriptions (in two languages: Hungarian and English), selected literature, maps and photographs of caves.
- Partly related to the Commission activity and partly prepared by its members are also papers published in the “Zeitschrift für Geomorphologie”, vol. 59 (2015), suppl. 1, containing the materials of the International Conference “Sandstone Landscapes III”, Kudowa Zdrój, Poland 25-28.04.2012.
- Minutes of the Pseudokarst Commission assembly in Brno were published in the UIS Bulletin, no. 56, 1 (2014).
- The report on the “pseudokarst sessions” during the Congress in Brno, 2013, was published in the Pseudokarst Newsletter no. 24.

Webpage

The webpage of the Pseudokarst Commission (edited by Hartmut Simmert) is permanently active. It presents all documents produced by the Commission assembly and executive group, issues of the Pseudokarst Newsletters as well as reports and announcements concerning meetings and other events. It also presents the members and functionaries of the Commission, history of the Commission

as well as European clubs and scientific institutions exploring and/or studying non-karst caves. All activity providing new data and improving the informational level of the webpage is welcome.

Current activeness

- The most important event recently prepared and currently taking place is the 13th International Symposium on Pseudokarst, held in Kunčice, in the Silesian-Moravian Beskydy, Czech Republic. The place of this Symposium was not set definitely during the last Commission assembly in Brno (2013), and the trials of its location were continued by the Commission executive. Therefore, we are the more grateful for our Hosts who have invited us to the Silesian-Moravian Beskydy. The institutional organizers of the 13th Symposium on Pseudokarst are: Speleological Group Orcus, Department of Physical Geography and Geoecology of the University of Ostrava and Founded Management of the Beskydy Protected Landscape Area. Personally, the main organisers of this Symposium are Jan Lenart and Josef Wagner. Observing their hard work and its results we all want to express our thanks to them and all other co-organisers.
- According to the decision made during the last assembly of the Commission, the Working Group on the Classification of Non-Karst Caves was to be organised and should precede works on this problem. Unfortunately, the Working Group have not presented any results of its work, yet.
- During the Congress in Brno (2013) the Commission executive got contacts with members and executives of the Volcanic Cave Commission and the Artificial Cavities Commission. These contacts have been still kept.
- Owing 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 etc.) has been efficiently distributed to the Commission executive and then redistributed to its members and friends.

Future events and prospects:

- The most important aim of the Pseudokarst Commission activity is the organization of international pseudokarst symposia. Therefore, the crucial problem which should be solved during this assembly is the location of the 14th International Symposium on Pseudokarst. So far, the Commission executive has got no suggestion in this issue, therefore all proposals are welcome. We should also discuss the term of this event in the context of the 17th International Congress of Speleology which will be held in Australia in 2017.
- 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 and, consequently, the final version of such classification will be consequently published in the most important speleological and geological journals.
- The persistent work of the Pseudokarst Commission executive will be continued. So the webpage will be updated and next issues of the Pseudokarst Newsletter are expected. The UIS Bureau is no longer providing financial support to the commissions for the printing and distribution of newsletters in order to encourage greater digital distribution, which reaches more people and for less money. The Pseudokarst Commission appreciates the past financial support by the Bureau. The Commission will provide support for the printed version of the Newsletter until 2017 to meet the requirements of libraries still keeping printed records as well as some members of the Commission.

Kunčice 16.09.2015

Ludovít Gaál
Secretary

Rudolf Pavuza
Vice-President

Jan Urban
President