

**Session on Non-Karst Caves and other activity of the Pseudokarst Commission
during the International Congress of Speleology, Sydney, 23- 29 July 2017**

Report

The Congress had a great success, it was friendly, well organized and on high professional level. Four hundred forty seven people from 46 countries participated in this event.

The Session on non-karst caves was executed on 24th July, afternoon. We were shown 8 presentations from different parts of the world. In the opening a commemoration on Dr Robert Wray was held. After the Session the Pseudokarst Commission meeting took place.

The lectures of the Session:

Francesco Sauro, Robert A.L. Wray: Scientific research and explorations in quartzite and quartz-sandstone caves

John Dunkley, Terry Bolger: An unusual maze cave in sandstone, NE Thailand

István Eszterhás, George Szentes: Historical notes and research history of the non-karst caves in Hungary

Bulat R. Mavlyudov: Origin of caves in glaciers and glacial sheets

Douglas M. Medville: Piping cave development in a high gradient setting: Kutz Canyon, New Mexico, USA

Claude Mouret: Types of caves present in the Kalimantan Barat Province, Borneo, Indonesia

Claude Mouret: Speleogenesis underneath basaltic lava flows in Niut Mountains, Kalimantan Barat, Borneo, Indonesia

Claude Mouret: Some fundamental features of speleogenesis in sandstone

Claude Mouret: Caves and other features in glaciers and icebergs, Graham Land, Antarctica

The Pseudokarst Commission meeting

About 10 people participated in this meeting, including George Veni (he become the President of the UIS) and members of the Commission: George Szentes and John Dunkley.

George Szentes read and introduced the Report on the past activity (2013-2017) and the future plans of the Commission. George Veni mentioned the Commission was one of the most active in the UIS. G. Szentes introduced the recent issue of the Pseudokarst Commission Newsletter and the respective web addresses.

According G. Szentes' opinion, there is huge number of non-karst cave studies and explorations all over the world, e.g. in the enormous sandstone regions of Australia, New Mexico in the USA, Indonesia, etc. For instance in France the Pseudokarst Conference will be held in October 2017. He suggested to extend the Commission activity and also the membership to the other regions and continents. The new persons are supposed to contribute the Newsletter and keep in contact via e-mail with the Commission executive and its other members. Such possible future connections/persons are, as follows:

Claude Mouert (France) – geologist investigating non-karst caves from the Antarctic to Indonesia. He is ready to participate in the Commission and to send reports for the Newsletter.

Bernard Chirol (France) – he promised to send the data on the Pseudokarst Conference in France in October this year.

Jill Rowling (Australia) – willing to join the Commission.

Peter Crossley (New Zealand) – co-operating with G. Szentes in the realized studies of sea caves and planned exploration of non-karst inland caves.

Douglas M. Medville (USA) – an expert of non-karst caves, who should be involved in the Commission activity.

As usually the fundamental problems of pseudokarst were debated during the further discussion: the necessity of e-mail conference concerning the definition and frames of the concept of non-karst/pseudokarst caves. What they are? The huge sea caves are non-karst caves, but are they also pseudokarst caves? The lava caves are defined clearly. Independently on the results of scientific studies, the name of the Pseudokarst Commission should stay unchanged!

The Second UIS General Assembly and UIS Bureau Meeting

In the Second General Assembly and full UIS Bureau Meeting G. Szentes summarized the main points of the Commission Meeting and the future plans, which have been accepted by the votes of the Assembly.

Auckland, 3rd July 2017

George Szentes