

Report
of activity of the Pseudokarst Commission of UIS between July 2017 and June 2022

Functionaries of the Commission:

Jiří Kopecký (honorary president), István Eszterhás (honorary president up to 2nd August 2020),

Jan Urban (president), Rudolf Pavuza (vice-president), Hartmut Simmert (secretary).

Members: Jiří Adamovič, Ilya Agapov, Ivo Baroň, Bartosz Baturo, Pavel Bella, Peter Crossley, Filip Duszyński, Ludovít Gaál, William R. Halliday, Kacper Jancewicz, Jiří Kopecký, Jan Lenart, Konstantin Kostov, Włodzimierz Margielewski, Douglas Medville, Jan Paul van der Pas, Rudolf Pavuza, Wioleta Porębna, Saul Riffel, Juan Ramón Vidal Romani, Jill Rowling, Hartmut Simmert, Rabbe Sjöberg, Herman de Swart, George Szentes, Peter Tarsoly, Maurizio Tavagnutti, Marcos Vaqueiro Rodriguez, Jan Urban, Marina Vdovets, Josef Wagner, Karel Žák.

During the reported period 8 new members were adopted into the Commission, while four ones died: Ahmad Afrasiabian (17.07.2017), John Dunkley (1.02.2018), Istvan Eszterhás (2.08.2020), and Erich Knust (6.07.2021). Consequently, the total number of the Commission members has increased by 4 persons and comprises 32 members. The Commission members represent the following countries: Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Brazil, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Spain and United States of America.

The Commission meeting

The last Commission meeting took place during the 17th International Congress of Speleology in Sydney, Australia on 24th July 2017. About 10 persons participated in this meeting, including George Veni, and two members of the Commission: George Szentes and past John Dunkley. Behalf the Commission President, G. Szentes presented the Commission report for the period 2013-2017, which was then discussed. The general conclusion of this discussion was that there are a lot of explorational and scientific activities in pseudokarst caves/landforms. Consequently, these activities should be reflected in the activeness of the Commission. Several persons attendant in the meeting declared their will to join the Commission or close cooperation with the Commission executive.

The Commission assembly was planned during the 15th International Symposium on Pseudokarst, which was to be held in Chęciny (Świętokrzyskie Mts.), Poland, in June 2020. Due to the pandemic restrictions, this meeting was two times postponed, firstly to the April 2021 and then to the 22-26 May 2023. In this term the 15th International Symposium on Pseudokarst will be held in Karłów (Sudetes), Southwestern Poland.

Publications:

- Pseudokarst Commission Newsletter (PCN) has been issued once a year or two years, in two languages: English and German up to the no. 29, and only in English – no 30. Editors of the issues were: Jan Urban, Rudolf Pavuza and Christa Pfarr. The Newsletter is still distributed both in digital version by internet and in printed copies by mail.

During the reported period three issues were published: no. 28 (December 2018), no. 29 (December 2019) and no 30 (March 2022). The PCN no. 28 was composed of 4 scientific papers, 4 short reports and event announcements, and 2 obituaries (in total 47 pages). The PCN no. 29 was composed of 4 scientific papers, 2 meeting announcements and 1 obituary (48 pages). The PCN no. 30 was of special character, since it was published on

the occasion of the International Year of Caves and Karst (IYCK). Therefore, it includes 11 scientific-popular papers promoting various types of pseudokarst caves in nine countries on four continents; plus preface commenting the problem of the pseudokarst caves promotion during the IYCK, as well as 1 meeting announcement and 3 obituaries (82 pages).

- The report on the Pseudokarst Commission activity in 2015-2017 was published in the UIS Bulletin 59.2/2018 (pp. 79-80).
- In the UIS Bulletin were also published (by Commission members) obituaries of the members and collaborators of the Pseudokarst Commission: Grzegorz Klassek (UISBull 61.1, pp. 26-27), Niels Axel Mörner (UISBull 62.2, pp. 46-47) and István Eszterhás (UISBull 62.2, pp. 48-49).

Webpage

The webpage of the Pseudokarst Commission (edited by Hartmut Simmert) is permanently active (address: <http://www.pseudokarst.com/>). It presents documents produced by the Commission assembly and executive group, issues of the Pseudokarst Newsletters, reports and announcements concerning meetings and other events, past symposia proceedings, as well as cave pictures. All activities providing new data and improving the informational level of the webpage are welcome.

Other activities

- Following the good work of the UIS President, George Veni, the information on events related to cave and karst exploration, study and management (meeting announcements, publications, etc.) has been efficiently redistributed to the Commission members and friends. Such relations between the Commission executive and its members make possible to get contacts also in other, inner-Commission affairs.
- During the Polish-Czech Speleological Workshop prepared and chaired by the Honorary President of the Pseudokarst commission, Jiří Kopecký, the president of the Pseudokarst Commission related the objectives, activeness and problems of the Pseudokarst Commission (the adequate presentation is accessible on the website). It was resulted in the increase in number of the Commission members.
- The Commission members participated in preparation of the IYCK webpage, collecting the set of photographs of pseudokarst caves.

Current and planned activities

- The crucial problem in the reported period was organization of the Commission assembly (meeting) which was planned during the 14th International Symposium on Pseudokarst, whose term was – in turn – two times postponed due to pandemic restrictions. The ultimate term of this meeting is 24th May 2023 and the meeting will be held in two ways: in the place and online, so as to make possible participation of highest number of members of the Commission.
- Despite the meeting problems lasting since the beginning of 2020, practically up to the spring 2022, the number of the Commission members has distinctly increased and – the more important – the composition of the Commission has been evidently rejuvenated. It has already resulted in the increased activity of the Commission currently reflected in the preparation of the 14th International Symposium on Pseudokarst. In the Commission Assembly held during this Symposium new objectives and ways of their realization by the Commission, adequate to modern cooperation possibilities and challenges, will be discussed and – we hope – accepted, and then implemented. Obviously the election of new executive group of the Commission will be held, and new, young functionaries

will be appointed to perform new tasks. Nevertheless, all the Commission members are still requested to look for young people working on pseudokarst and ask them to involve in the Commission activity.

- The traditional – previously and currently realized – activeness of the Commission, is and will be continued, so the Pseudokarst Commission Newsletter will be issued (however the form and technique of it can be changed), the website will be managed (proceedings of pseudokarst symposiums as PDF files will be completed, etc.), the activity of Commission members in other media (UIS Bulletin, etc.) will be visible.
- Initial measures for a preparation of the 15th International Symposium on Pseudokarst in 2025 will be conducted.

Kraków-Wien-Dresden 4.07.2022

Hartmut Simmert
Secretary

Rudolf Pavuza
Vice-President

Jan Urban
President