



## International Association of Geomorphologists

# Welcome

During the last IAG International Conference that took place on September 2005 in Zaragoza, Spain, different new Working Groups were established by Prof. Andrew Goudie, our current President. Among them, a Working Group devoted to **Geomorphological Hazards** was set up.

The significance of understanding geomorphological hazards can be clearly recognized by looking at the number of disasters associated to hazards such as volcanic activity, landsliding, flooding and earthquakes, and so forth, that take place on daily basis in our planet. According to a database developed by the Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, Université Catholique de Louvain (OFDA-CRED), from 1900 to 2004, there were 8157 disasters related to natural hazards. Therefore, it is indeed our task as geomorphologists, not only to provide a better comprehension of the phenomena *per se*, but also to develop the most appropriate means to analyze and model scenarios of likely occurrence in order to increase the awareness of authorities and decision makers, as well as to decrease the impact on populations.

### The IAGeomhaz Working Group was established aiming at:

1. Improving the knowledge related to all types of geomorphological hazards not only in terms of processes, and landforms, but also considering the impact on population.
2. Implementing the appropriate means to increase the awareness of other scientists, stake-holders, decision makers, planners, authorities and general public about the role of geomorphologists in the understanding of hazards and the potentiality of applied geomorphology for disaster prevention.

### Such aims will be fulfill by undertaking the following strategy:

1. Establishing international scientific collaboration among geomorphologists and other scientists interested on Geomorphological hazards and disaster prevention.
2. Creating a web-site and an e-mail discussion list as a permanent forum of scientific feedback (***under construction***).
3. Publication of State-of-the-Art research on geomorphological hazards.

4. Publishing a book of geomorphological hazards under the umbrella of the International Association of Geomorphologists as a special contribution from our field (providing all royalties to our Association).
5. Organisation of special sessions within the framework of national, regional and international conferences, particularly on those arranged by the IAG itself and IAG National Members.
6. Organisation of symposiums, field workshops and round table discussions (*in situ*) looking towards collaborative research on the selected sites.
7. To organize and promote short courses for young geomorphologists in different countries.
8. To prepare and publish a dictionary on geomorphological hazards.
9. To participate in different international forums concerning disaster prevention.

We kindly invite you to participate in the activities of the **IAGeomhaz** Working Group, as well as to send us your ideas, suggestions and feedback to improve our joint venture.

If you would like to take part of the **IAGeomhaz**, please send us an e-mail to:

**IAGeomhaz** Working Group-Email: [IAGeomhaz@igg.unam.mx](mailto:IAGeomhaz@igg.unam.mx)

***Please include full name, institution, country, gender, background, and area of interest/specialization. Thank you very much!***

***Warm regards,***

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