

The 8th IAG International Conference, 2013: An outstanding experience for a young geomorphologist

The International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG) 8th International Conference held in Paris from 27 – 31 August this year offered 5 days of intensive debate, discussion and interrogation across a wide range of topics in the science of geomorphology. The variety of scientific content was attested to by the 29 scientific sessions held during the conference which included the history and epistemology of geomorphology, submarine and cold-region geomorphology, and planetary and mega-geomorphology to name just a few.

As a young geomorphologist afforded the opportunity to attend the 8th IAG Conference through the Young Geomorphologists Grant, I was overwhelmed yet delighted and grateful to be exposed to such a wide array of geomorphological research and discussion, especially in my own field of research- fluvial geomorphology. One of the most rewarding experiences was listening to and conversing with well-known and prestigious fluvial geomorphologists whose journal articles and book works I have referenced numerously throughout my short time practicing science in this field. I found the top scientists in my field easy and humble to talk to, which encouraged me to further pursue a career in fluvial geomorphology. I gained huge exposure to new ideas and types of reasoning not only from the scientific presentations held, but also through relaxed conversation with other scientists in social breaks held during the conference.

It was not only the geomorphological array I was exposed to that made the conference an outstanding experience for me, but also the thorough and efficient way in which it was organized. From the well planned programme of topics to the timeliness of parallel sessions and excellent chairing of the sessions, to the formality of the cocktail evening and gala dinner and adventure of the mid-conference field excursions, this was no doubt a huge effort of work by several dedicated members of the IAG.

My experience of the conference was heightened by the location- Paris has a very rich architectural beauty and history which I would not have had the privilege to gain insight to and explore without the opportunity to attend the IAG Conference through the Young Geomorphologists Grant.