

REPORT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GEOMORPHOLOGY IAG

The 8th international conference on geomorphology was held in Paris from 27 to the 31 august 2013. This international meeting was organized by the IAG and the GFG and gathered around 1500 geomorphologists, geologists and geographers from 70 countries. The contacts I had with the IAG organizers before and during the conference as well as the event itself in Paris city was a great experience for me as a young researcher. For the many conferences I've attended during my PhD study, the IAG conference was a special scientific meeting for me, as stated here below in four points:

A- A chance for young geomorphologists!

When the call of proposal for the IAG grants was announced on the website, I have applied for the grant and hoped, as many scientists, to get it. When I got the grant, I was relieved that I would be able to participate in this worldwide event and present the PhD work and results to many specialists in karst geomorphology. Also, an invitation was sent to write an article to a special issue of Geomorphology based on a selection of papers presented at the 8th International Congress on Geomorphology. Thanks to the IAG initiative and program to encourage young researchers, such opportunities can help geomorphologists to enhance their career.

B- Developing a scientific network

The 8th IAG conference was also an occasion to see what other researchers in the karst geomorphology field are working on. Many contributions helped me to enlarge my interest in new approaches or results and encouraged me to exchange ideas that can be complementary or similar to other researchers' point of view. During the breaks, discussions with other geomorphologists contributed in developing future collaborations, such as invitations to other conferences, co-writing an article or building new projects.

C- Making intergenerational contact possible

Conferences, such as the 8th IAG congress, are a chance for your researchers to exchange ideas and present their work to known scientists in their field expertise. During this conference, experience exchanges were possible with known scientists in karst field studies as well as with scientists from the organizing committee.

D- A Scientific prospect for your country

Participating for the first time in the IAG congress was also a special event not only for me, on a personal level, but also for my country, Lebanon. It is the first time that a young researcher from Lebanon participates in the IAG congress and I was given this opportunity to represent my country for the first time. Consequently, I have a duty now, towards my country, to try to constitute a small representative group for lebanese geomorphologists in order to submit our national affiliation to the IAG.

Finally I would like to say that I was pleased to meet the IAG training officers Mauro Soldati and Francisco Guterrez. They made the distance closer between us, as young geomorphologists and gave us an opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas during our dinner together after the reception buffet.

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