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 Guiterrez. 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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