

IAG Regional Conference on Geomorphology
«Gradualism vs. Catastrophism in Landscape Evolution»
Barnaul (Russia), 2-5 July 2015

**REPORT ON THE IAG REGIONAL CONFERENCE AND
POST-CONFERENCE FIELD-TRIP AND
INTENSIVE COURSE IN THE ALTAI MOUNTAINS**

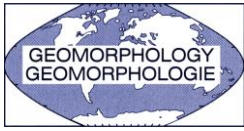
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It gives me immense pleasure to present the report on the IAG Regional Conference (2-4 July 2015) and Post-conference Field-trip and Intensive Field Course for Young Geomorphologists in the Altai Mountains (5-11 July 2015). It was, indeed, excellent academic and human experience for me in Barnaul, Russia and Russian Altai Mountains. I had both the experiences for the first time at international level. First and foremost for me was very well planned Conference Opening Function during which IAG and INQUA Grant holders were introduced. It was followed by Invited Lecture of Professor Victor Baker (USA) on Extreme Events and Catastrophism in Geomorphology: Some Historical and Philosophical Perspectives. This lecture has given me a new insight on Catastrophism in Geomorphology. Subsequently Plenary Session was held where six speakers delivered lectures on various aspects of Catastrophism in Geomorphology. Their talks were fruitful and led to better understating of catastrophic processes and forms. The Key Note Addresses of all the sessions by eminent scholars in their fields were inspiring. It was, moreover, beneficial to attend oral presentations of all the sessions where I could learn about how presentation are made how researchers use methods and techniques in their work. Further, it was advantageous because of absence of parallel sessions which enabled me to attend all the presentations. Poster presentations in the lobby of Conference Hall were good. The most awarding feature for me was oral talk of my paper. I was given sufficient time for presentation and discussion.

One of the unique opportunities was the Post-conference Field-trip and Intensive Course for Young Geomorphologists and Quaternary Researchers in the Altai Mountains from 5 to 11 July 2015. Sixteen students, six guides, 30 senior researchers and two tutors namely Professor Paul Carling, University of Southampton, Great Britain and Professor Juergen Herget, University of Bonn, Germany participated in the Field Trip. It started from Barnaul on July 5, 2015. We had a halt while heading to Artybash at the Republic National Museum in Gorno-Altai where we were acquainted with discoveries made in Altai and whole Siberia. Second day in the morning, we had stops in the Biya valley tributaries where exposures of alluvial and dammed-lake deposits were observed. The Korbu waterfall, lacustrine terraces and exposures at Yaylyu with cruise in the Teletskoye Lake in the post-lunch session were fascinating. Professor Gennady Baryshnikov, Professor Andrei Panin had given scientific explanation during this part as well as during the entire Field Trip. The scientific discussion of Young Geomorphologists with tutors and professors at Artybash in the evening was gratifying. An ethnographic entertaining program at Ongudai was a marvellous experience in the evening of July 7. While transferring to Aktash on July 8, 2015, we had five stops in the Katun and Chuya valleys where we were made familiar with exposures of catafluvial deposits. We subsequently visited the Chuya Basin to view sections of Late Pleistocene moraine and dammed lake deposits, to learn about Beltir earthquake, to get acquainted with Taldura seismic landslide, etc. Information on strandlines of the Kuray Lake, large gravel ripples, debate on timing and mechanism of the Kuray Lake formation and sink, observation of the abandoned Chuya valley and the young Chuya canyon was excellent.

I am indebted to Professor Gennady Baryshnikov, Professor Andrei Panin, Professor Victor Baker, Professor Paul Carling, Professor Juergen Herget, Professor G. Adamiec, Professor Roman Nepop, Anna Agatova, Professor Mauro Soldati, Professor Sunil Kumar De, Dr. Ekaterina Matlakhova, Ms. Olga (Senior and Junior), Ms. Tatyana and all the members of organising



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committee of the IAG Regional Conference and Post-conference Field-trip and Intensive Course in the Altai Mountains. I beg to pardon me if I have failed to mention the names unknowingly. I am grateful to International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG) and International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA) for granting financial support to attend the Conference and to participate in the Post-conference Field Trip and Intensive Course for Young Geomorphologists in the Altai Mountains. The Conference and the Post-conference Field Trip were academically rewarding and socially enjoyable for me. I shall cherish the memories throughout my life and endeavour to do the best in the field of Geomorphology.



An Introduction of Young Geomorphologists at the Conference Opening



Explanation given by tutor to participants of Field Trip at Teletskoye Lake

Ms. Archana Patil