



International Association of Geomorphologists

Association Internationale des
Géomorphologues

IAG/AIG Newsletter No. 24 (3/2008)

IAG SENIOR FELLOWS 2009

At its meeting in Brasov, the IAG Executive Committee decided to elect four geomorphologists as Senior Fellows:

Professor T.Suzuki
Prof. Olav Slaymaker
Professor P.W.Williams
Professor J.Chappell.

They will be awarded this honour at the general assembly in Melbourne in July.

Professor Paul Williams, of the University of Auckland in New Zealand, is one of the world's leading Karst geomorphologists and hydrologists, and also has a strong interest in Quaternary palaeoclimates. With degrees from Durham, Dublin and Cambridge, he has conducted research in many parts of the world, including China, and he is the co-author with Derek Ford of "Karst Hydrogeology and Geomorphology". He has been a long time supporter of the IAG and has been a member of the Executive Committee.

Professor John Chappell, Emeritus Professor of Geomorphology and Quaternary Research at the Research School of Earth Sciences at the Australian National University in Canberra, obtained his BSc and MSc degrees across the Tasman Sea at the University of Auckland. His publications are prolific and his research is widespread. He is most noted for fundamental work on the influence of global climate on fluctuations in sea-levels.

Professor Takasuke Suzuki, Professor Emeritus of Chuó University in Tokyo, Japan, is one of Japan's leading geomorphologists. He has been Editor in Chief of the Transactions of the Japanese Geomorphological Union, President of the JGU, and was the organizer of the notably successful 5th International Conference on Geomorphology held in Tokyo in 2001. However, we also honour him for his work on a wide range of geomorphological processes, for his seminal work on rock properties in geomorphology and for the work he has done on the borders of Engineering and Geomorphology.

Professor Olav Slaymaker, Professor Emeritus of Geography in the University of British Columbia, Canada, was educated at the University of Cambridge and holds a DSc honoris causa from the University of Wales. He has been a wonderful servant of the IAG, has attended all our International Conferences, and was President of the IAG from 1997-2001. However, along with the British Society for Geomorphology, which awarded him its Linton medal, we honour the breadth and quality of his research, particularly in cold and mountainous regions. Ever productive and forward looking, he is co-editor of an IAG book on 21st Century Landscapes.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

The IAG/AIG Regional Conference on Geomorphology having as its theme *Landslides, Floods and Global Environmental Change in Mountain Regions*, took place at the Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering of the Transylvania University of Brasov, during September 15-25, 2008. The meeting was held under the authority of the International Association of Geomorphologists, the Romanian Association of Geomorphologists (AGR) and the Carpatho-Balkan Geomorphological Commission (CBGC), was locally organized by the Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy.

The programme of the Conference included plenary lectures, scientific sessions of oral and poster papers, including special Workshops and IAG Working Group sessions, pre- and post-conference field trips and an International Summer School on Natural Hazards for young geomorphologists. During the Conference, business meetings of the IAG Executive Committee, Romanian Association of Geomorphologists, Carpatho-Balkan Geomorphological Commission and IAG Training Activities were organized. The two special workshops on *Climate Change and Extreme Events in Mountain Regions* and on *Hazard Assessment in Mining Areas using GIS*, as well as the International Summer School were financially supported by the Romanian Ministry of Education, Research and Youth.

The Conference opened with the speeches of Prof. Andrew Goudie, President of the IAG/AIG, Prof. Dan Bălteanu, director of the Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy, chair of the local organizing committee, and Prof. Ioan Vasile Abrudan, dean of the hosting Faculty. At the same Opening Ceremony, Prof. Mauro Soldati, treasurer of the IAG, announced the three grants offered to the winners of the competition of young geomorphologists.

The Conference was attended by over 150 specialists, mainly geomorphologists coming from 30 countries. 111 abstracts were accepted for the 12 scientific sessions. These included six general sessions, two special Workshops and four IAG Working Group sessions (Geomorphological Hazards, Geomorphology and Society, Human Impact on the Landscape, the Third Joint Council Meeting of the IAG Carpatho-Balkan-Dinaric Regional Working Group and the Carpatho-Balkan Geomorphological Commission). The accepted abstracts were published in a volume (121 pages). Negotiations are undergoing for the publishing of papers in special issues of international journals like *Geomorphology*. Aspects presented within the thematic sessions focused on the impact of

landslides and floods on settlements, infrastructure and environment in the context of the global climatic change; hazards mitigation measures, modern methods for the evaluation of the failure mechanism and monitoring of the impact of landslides.

The plenary lectures were presented by Prof. Andrew Goudie (Oxford University Centre for Environment, UK), Prof. Dan Bălteanu (Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy, Romania), Prof. Monique Fort (Université Paris, France), Prof Michael Crozier (Institute of Geography, School of Earth Sciences, New Zealand), Prof. Irasema Alcántara-Ayala (UNAM, Instituto de Geografía, Mexico), Prof. Franck Audemard (FUNVISIS, Earth Sciences Dept., Venezuela), Prof. Jean-Noel Salomon (L'Université Michel de Montaigne-Bordeaux, Institut de Géographie, France), and Prof. Vladimir Boynagryan (Yerevan State University, Armenia).

Four field trips took place, offering interesting sights into Romanian geomorphological features: a pre-conference one-day (54 participants), an afternoon (55 participants) and two post-conference field trips: *Vertical Zonation of Floods and Mass Movements in the Carpathian Mountains* (21 participants), *Large Landslides, Floods and Seismic Activity* (19 participants). The field trip guides were published in a volume (128 pages).

At the **International Summer School for Young Geomorphologists *Environmental Hazards and Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions*** (September 20-25, 2008, Pârlagele, Romania), ten young PhD and Masters students from six different countries participated. The main goals of the Summer School were: identification, inventory and analysis of geomorphic and hydrologic hazards and their effects on the natural and social environment in the context of global climate change.

Field trips in the region focused on explaining the causes, the evolution, the specificity and the environmental effects of landslides, mudflows, river floods and flash-floods, active faults and mud volcanoes.

The young researchers presented their works and discussed their ideas with experts in the field of landslides, applied geomorphology, neotectonics etc.

Courses on landslides and other geomorphic processes, floods and engineering structures have been organized, the professors being: Michael Crozier (New Zealand), Prof. Dan Bălteanu (Romania), Prof. Markus Holub (Austria).

Dan Bălteanu

Director of the Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy and Chair of the local organizing committee

Marta Jurchescu

Secretary of the Conference

Young Geomorphologists

The IAG has recently offered grants to young geomorphologists to assist in their participation in the IAG Regional Conference in Brasov (Romania) and in the Post-Graduate Training Course in Windsor (UK). The winners of the grants were:

IAG Regional Conference in Brasov (Romania) (15-26 September 2008)

Rou-Fei CHEN (Taiwan)

Marko KHOV (Estonia)

Tri VAN (Vietnam)

Post-Graduate Training Course in Windsor (UK) (15-18 December 2008)

Carlos LOUREIRO FERREIRA (Portugal)

Aurélien CHRISTOL (France).

We include the reports from the three attendees at the Brasov conference below:

Tri Van (P.D.T.Van@soton.ac.uk):

To be able to attend the Regional Conference on Geomorphology *Landslides, Floods and Global Environmental Change in Mountain Regions* in Brasov, Romania has been of great benefit to me, so as to meet different scholars specialised in different subjects. It helped me not only improve my specialized knowledge but also enlarge my academic network. I have an opportunity to communicate with both old and new colleagues, which might offer good opportunities to open new doors for my current and future research.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the IAG for the grant and all the members of the IAG committee for many open and constructive conversations which aided drafting the application for funding. Last but not least, I would like to thank the staff at the Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy for a well-organized conference.

Rou-Fei CHEN (roufei@earth.sinica.edu.tw):

I am very honored and privileged to obtain this scholarship with Marko KHOV from Estonia and Tri VAN from Vietnam. Let me on behalf of the all young morphologists and myself express our sincerest appreciation and thanks to the people and the IAG/AIG Committee for excellent arrangements and extended hospitality to all of us.

Many exciting findings and research projects were described by participants at this conference. In addition to those sessions which were specifically, Global environmental and developmental concerns demand the application of the latest and best scientific research environmental in order to define problems. That the contribution of the geosciences to the measurement and understanding of global environmental changes, surface processes and human activity induced nature hazards, and the impact these hazards have upon the delicate balance between natural environment, Climate change and human settlements be recognized and enhanced. Following the recommendations of the participants in the Symposium, we recognize the fundamental role that understanding of

natural and human-induced Global environmental change is bound to play in the achievement of any degree of sustainable development. And also we need to consider that both natural calamities and human induces change should be accommodated and managed by monitoring a wide range of earth-surface changes (e.g. Landslide, Flood...) in Mountain area.

Since 2005, Taiwan is loess contacts with International Association Geomorphologists. I regret that Active Taiwan mountain belt presents an excellent opportunity to analyze the relationship between morphology and neotectonics due to its high denudation and erosion rate. So, I will contact and discuss with my colleagues whose interested the Taiwan Geomorphology study. I believe Taiwan will continue to be a strong and loyal member again. With this let me reiterate our deepest thanks to all organizers of the IAG/ AIG Meeting of Brasov and the people of Romania in particular for generosity and warmth and wish all participants prosperity and success.

Marko Kohv (marko.kohv@ut.ee):

I was happy to receive a grant from IAG as a young geomorphologist to took part from the conference gathering the best specialists around the Europe and even further. As this was my first medium sized conference abroad I was very happy see the leading edge science dealing with the landslides and GIS based landslide hazard zonation. The organizing committee did a very good job; everything was on schedule, materials well edited and compiled and the people themselves very friendly and helpful.

The first three days offered a large amount of presentations, both oral and posters. Some were unfortunately held in French (which I don't speak) but anyway there was more than enough good science and interesting ideas. My favourites were:

- Gutierrez, F., Lucha, P., Galve, J.P., Gomez, R. Reconstructing the geochronological evolution of large landslides by the trenching technique in Yesa reservoir (Spanish Pyrenees);
- Magri, O., Mantovani, M., Pasuto, A., Soldati, M. The use of multiple techniques in landslide research with reference to coastal lateral spreading in Malta;
- Panek, T., Hradecky, J., Smolkova, V., Shilan, K. Long-term evolution of deep-seated slope failure in the Crimean Mountains (Ukraine): Estimation based on radiocarbon and U/Th-series datings.

The next part of the conference was the field trip and the summer school for the young geomorphologists. We were happy to have leading experts, Michael Crozier and Dan Baltenau as our guides. Their discussions pointed out interesting interconnections between landforms, climate and human activity – a lot to thought about. Almost all spectrum of the mass movements were presented in the field trip.

Lectures given by Crozier and Holub during the evenings were very interesting and discussions after those raised several interesting problems about our current knowledge about mass movements. We managed to add even one extra lecture from Crozier to our otherwise quite tight schedule.

In general I'm very pleased about the congress and summer school and certainly will look for the opportunities to work together with the people whom I met.

Sediment Fluxes and Sediment Budgets in Changing High-Latitude and High-Altitude Cold Environments

SEDIMENT BUDGETS IN COLD ENVIRONMENTS (SEDIBUD) THIRD WORKSHOP; MOUNTAIN RESEARCH STATION, INSTAAR, BOULDER, COLORADO, 9-13 SEPTEMBER 2008

Armelle Decaulne, University Blaise Pascal, CNRS-UMR6042 Geolab, Clermont-Ferrand, France

Achim A. Beylich, Geological Survey of Norway, Trondheim, Norway

Scott F. Lamoureux, Department of Geography, Queen's University, Kingston, Canada

Nel Caine, Department of Geography, University of Colorado, Boulder, USA

Irina Overeem, Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research, Boulder, USA

The I.A.G./A.I.G. working group SEDIBUD (SEDIMENT BUDGETS IN COLD environments), founded in 2005, gathers over 350 researchers interested in high-latitude and high-altitude sedimentary fluxes and budgets, and Holocene environmental change. The aim of SEDIBUD is to better understand Earth surface systems modification in relation with climate change, through the observation and quantification of past and present-day erosion, transport and deposition of sediments and fluxes.

From September 9 to 13, 2008, 23 participants met during a workshop held at the Niwot Ridge Mountain Research Station of the University of Colorado at Boulder, USA. The workshop was hosted by INSTAAR and locally organised by Nel Caine and Irina Overeem. Additional sponsorship was provided by the Community Surface Dynamics Modeling System (CSDMS). The workshop was composed of paper and poster sessions covering a wide range of different cold climate environments as well as extended working group discussions and a field excursion. Nine countries were represented and 14 research institutes, both from the northern and southern hemisphere. The SEDIBUD working group addressed central issues during this workshop, concerning (i) an updated version of the published SEDIFLUX Manual (Eds. Beylich & Warburton) that establish common methods and standards for data collection in the field, enabling comparison from various cold environments; (ii) further to the presentation of the SEDIBUD Key Sites Fact Sheet Volume (Eds. Lamoureux, Decaulne & Beylich), that gathers characteristics from 23 SEDIBUD sites, a second edition has been decided with more key sites covering wider cold environments; the aim is to reach 45 well defined key sites. (iii) a clear protocol was defined during the workshop, addressing prerequisites for each SEDIBUD sites (data are requested with regard to the basin boundary conditions, the catchment and slopes), the collected data feeding the SEDIBUD metadata database; (iv) the extension of the existing SEDIBUD key test site database (Laute, Gintz & Beylich), including key annual data (see protocol) from each SEDIBUD key test site, (v) the

potential link between CSDMS (<http://csdms.colorado.edu>) and SEDIBUD, that can offer interesting modelling possibilities for scientific issues and student training.

The next SEDIBUD workshop will be held in fall 2009 at Queens's University, Kingston, Canada. Further information on the workshop and on the SEDIBUD program can be found at <http://www.geomorph.org/wg/wgsb.html>.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Italian Association of Physical Geography and Geomorphology (AIGeo)** organizes every two years a National Conference. In September 2009 the Third AIGeo National Conference will be held in Modena in honour of Prof. Mario Panizza. For further information please see the conference website at <http://www.aigecomodena.unimore.it/en/>

Southern African Association of Geomorphologists biannual meeting at Rhodes University, Grahamstown (provisional dates are 30th August to 5th September 2010).

The provisional programme is as follows:

Mon 30th Aug	Workshop: Sediment problems in Southern African Rivers
Tuesday 31st Aug	Field Excursion to the Eastern Cape (Compassberg Region)
Wednesday 1st Sep	Field Excursion to the Eastern Cape (Compassberg / Kat River Region)
Thursday 2nd Sep	Workshop: Dating and tracing sediments and sedimentary deposits
Friday 3rd Sep	SAAG Conference
Sat 4th Sep	SAAG Conference
Sun 5th Sep	SAAG Conference (Depart after Lunch)

For more information please contact Professor Ian Foster at the University of Westminster (i.foster@westminster.ac.uk).

Editor's Note

The success of the IAG/AIG Newsletter depends upon the contributions that we receive. Please assist by sending commentaries, reviews of regional or national meetings and field trips, summaries of issues pertinent to geomorphology, and announcements of future meetings and workshops. Your contributions should be forwarded to the IAG/AIG Publications Officer:

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