



## International Association of Geomorphologists

*Association Internationale des Géomorphologues*

**IAG/AIG Newsletter No. 25 (1-3/2009)**

### 7<sup>th</sup> ICG SPECIAL ISSUE

#### From the Editor's Desk

Dear Geomorphologists

Due to some unavoidable circumstance the Newsletters (No. 25/1 & 2) could not be published in time. After taking over the charge of Publication Officer from July, 2009 I have prepared this newsletter as a combined issue of Newsletter Nos.25 /1-3). Henceforth the Newsletter will be published in March, June, September and December in every year. Your kind co-operation is solicited in this regard.

**Sunil Kumar De**

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#### **1. The Conference**

The 7th International Conference on Geomorphology (ANZIAG) was held in Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre, Melbourne during 6-11 July, 2009 with the theme 'Ancient Landscapes - Modern perspectives' jointly hosted by the Australian and New Zealand Geomorphology Group Inc. (ANZGG). For the first time in history, this Conference was held in the Southern Hemisphere, on an ancient piece of Gondwanaland for which a special session on Southern Hemisphere/Gondwana Geomorphology was organized. The Conference provided a venue for Geomorphologists working in all branches of the discipline to present their own work, to hear the work of others and to interact with colleagues from around the globe.

The official activities of the Conference was started at 8.30 a.m. on 7<sup>th</sup> July,2009. Prof. Andrew Goudie delivered his Presidential on "JUST DESERTS" and the IAG/AIG Honorary Senior Fellows along with the Jean Tricart Fellow have been awarded by the Organizing Committee at the Inaugural Function.

The brief of the **Presidential Address** is as follows:

"Since 1967 there have been a number of major developments in desert geomorphology and this personal view will discuss: the significance, sources and frequencies of dust storms; the role of salt in preparing desert surfaces and in creating hazards for engineering structures; the nature, distribution and origin of closed depressions (pans); the nature of wind fluted surfaces (yardangs); the diversity of dune types (especially barchans); the nature and timing of climatic changes; and the role of optical dating for establishing rates of dune accumulation" (A. Goudie -Just Deserts).

Honorary Senior Fellows of IAG/AIG

**Olav Slaymaker, Takasuke Suzuki, Paul Williams, and John Chappell**

Jean Tricart Fellow

**Bianca Carvalho Vieira**

A total of 648 Delegates from 50 countries have participated the Conference out of which the largest contingent being Australian (172) followed by 49 from Japan, 45 from USA, 40 from UK, 39 from New Zealand, and 35 from Spain. Total 1093 abstracts in 37 theme sessions (567 oral and 526 posters) were accepted out of which 855 papers (460 oral and 395 posters) were presented.

Conference sessions covered most of the major traditional themes in Geomorphology as well as new and developing fields like Chronometrics and Cosmogenic Dating, Terrestrial Laser Scanning and Geomorphological Impact of Armed Conflict. Each of the working groups of the IAG/AIG held their meetings at the Conference.

*Session-wise Number of Papers accepted for Oral and Poster Presentations in 7<sup>th</sup> ICG*

| <b>Session Title</b>   | <b>Oral</b> | <b>Poster</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Advances in Geochronology  | 13          | 1             | 14           |
| Aeolian Processes and Geomorphology                                    | 20          | 5             | 25           |
| Applied Geomorphological Mapping                                       | 19          | 11            | 30           |
| Biogeomorphology   | 10          | 12            | 22           |
| Coastal Geomorphology and Management                                   | 36          | 0             | 36           |
| Fire Effects on Geomorphology and Environmental Processes              | 23          | 11            | 34           |
| Fluvial Geomorphology and Fluvial Processes                            | 24          | 22            | 46           |
| Functioning of Small Catchments in Morphoclimatic Zones                | 5           | 10            | 15           |
| <u>Geomorphological Hazards</u>  | 15          | 18            | 33           |
| Geomorphological Impacts of Armed Conflict                             | 3           | 0             | 3            |
| Geomorphology and Earth System Science                                 | 3           | 2             | 5            |
| Geomorphology and Geoarchaeology: Cross-Contribution and Interactivity | 18          | 0             | 18           |
| Geomorphology and Global Environmental Change                          | 16          | 12            | 28           |
| Geomorphosites and Geotourism  | 10          | 17            | 27           |
| Glacial and Periglacial Geomorphology in a Warming World               | 10          | 14            | 24           |
| Global Continental Palaeohydrology Hydrology (GLOCOPH)                 | 10          | 3             | 13           |
| Hillslopes and Mass Movement   | 18          | 28            | 46           |
| Human Impact on the Landscape  | 14          | 12            | 26           |
| Karst Geomorphology  | 13          | 11            | 24           |
| Land Degradation: Adaptation to Climate Change                         | 7           | 2             | 9            |
| Landscape Connectivity   | 11          | 6             | 17           |
| Landscapes in Drylands   | 18          | 13            | 31           |
| Large Rivers   | 10          | 4             | 14           |
| Modelling Landscapes and Landscape Processes                           | 8           | 13            | 21           |
| Planetary Geomorphology  | 15          | 1             | 16           |
| Polar Geomorphology: Glacier-permafrost Interactions                   | 4           | 0             | 4            |
| Quaternary Landscape Formation & Impact on Recent Process              | 0           | 0             | 0            |
| Regolith, Soils and Weathering   | 7           | 15            | 22           |
| River Management   | 20          | 20            | 40           |
| Sediment Budgets   | 5           | 8             | 13           |
| Southern Hemisphere / Gondwana Geomorphology                           | 5           | 0             | 5            |
| Tectonics and Geomorphology  | 17          | 25            | 42           |
| Terrestrial Laser Scanning within Geomorphology                        | 9           | 9             | 18           |
| The Geomorphology of Rocky Coasts                                      | 13          | 6             | 19           |
| Tropical Geomorphology   | 6           | 5             | 11           |
| Tsunami Geomorphology  | 9           | 4             | 13           |
| Volcanic Geomorphology   | 9           | 10            | 19           |

**2. IAG/AIG Council Meetings during 7<sup>th</sup> ICG**

The first IAG/AIG Council Meeting during the 7<sup>th</sup> ICG was held on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2009 at 05.30 p.m. The decisions of the previous 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IAG/AIG Executive Committee 2005 – 2009 held in Brasov, Romania have been placed before the National Scientific Members approval. All of the decisions have been approved unanimously.

***Minutes of the First IAG /AIG Executive Committee Meeting (held on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2009 at Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre) will be published in the Next Newsletter.***

### 3. New IAG/AIG Executive Committee

The Election for the New IAG/AIG Executive Committee (2009-2013) was held on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2009 at 04.00 p.m. and following members have been elected with a majority of support:

**Mike Crozier** (President), **Eric Fouache** (Vice President), **Piotr Migon** (Vice President), **David Dunkerley** (Vice President) and **Sunil Kumar De** (Publications officer).

In the First EC meeting of the newly elected Committee the following members have been co-opted to form the full-fledged EC for the said period:

**Morgan De Dapper** (Secretary), **Francisco Gutiérrez** (Treasurer), **Mauro Soldati** (Young Geomorphologists Training Officer), **Bianca Carvalho Vieira** (early career geomorphologists and Latin America, assist Mauro) **David Higgitt** (Media and liaison with webmaster and Publication Officer), **Zbigniew Zwolinski** (Webmaster) **Yoshimasa Kurashige** (Japan), **Xiaoping Yang** (China) and **Lothar Schrott** (German speaking countries; linkage /liaison with other organisations IUG, IGU, EGU/AGU, IUCN).

#### ***Address of the incoming President of IAG/AIG – Melbourne July 2009***

On the occasion of the Seventh International Conference on Geomorphology held in Melbourne from 6-11 July 2009, it is appropriate to look at the International Association and review where we have been and where we are headed. First, however, I would like to acknowledge the fine leadership we have had over the last four years under Professor Andrew Goudie, our outgoing President. His guidance along with the hard work of the Executive Committee has left the Association in a strong and vibrant position.

Our last Quadrennial meeting was held in the shadow of the Pyrenees in Zaragoza. It was an excellent conference and set a great challenge for the Australia New Zealand Geomorphology Group (ANZGG) to match. Indeed the Melbourne meeting can now be declared a great success.

The exquisitely designed Melbourne Convention Centre has enhanced an outstanding meeting attended by over 630 delegates. The International Association extends its thanks to the ANZGG and in particular to the Chair of the Organising Committee, Brian Finlayson and his team of dedicated organisers.

Between the two main conferences there have been numerous meetings where the Association has been represented or involved in running sessions. However, two notable regional meetings of IAG/AIG occurred in this period: the conference in Sabah, Malaysia, organised by David Higgitt and the conference in Romania, organised by Dan Balteanu. Both meetings have been highly acclaimed for their scientific content and excellent organisation. We are looking forward to the next IAG/AIG Regional Meeting to be held in Ethiopia in 2011.

Apart from the scientific meetings, the highlights of the last four years have been the activity of the working groups and the young geomorphologists programme (coordinated by Mauro Soldati). The working groups (14 of them) represent the core business of the Association between meetings.

In accordance with the policy of IAG/AIG, many of these groups have been working on substantial publications, and all have held one or more meetings often in conjunction with major discipline conferences. Notable amongst the publications (either published or in process) from the working groups are: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Landscapes from the Global change WG; Natural Hazards from the Natural Hazard WG; Handbook on Applied Geomorphological Mapping from the Applied Geomorphic Mapping WG; a Monograph for the Carpatho-Balkan-Dinaric WG; a book on Geomorphosites, an Atlas on Human impact by the Human Impact WG; Geomorphological Landscapes of the World (edited by Piotr Migon) and contributed by a number of WG members.

In the next four years the focus of the Association will be to continue to enhance both working group activity and the young geomorphologists program. These activities are not only central to our mission but are a way of opening up the subject of geomorphology to a wide range of interest groups from many parts of the world.

We are also aware that in many parts of the world there are small but growing groups of geomorphologists who up to now have worked in relative isolation. Bringing these groups into the international mainstream of geomorphology will be a priority for the new executive committee.

Two other areas will occupy our activity over the next year or so. One is to link more closely with other scientific groups, by, for example, having a higher profile at associated meetings such as the European Geoscience Union (EGU). The second area we wish to pursue is to identify clearly the nature of geomorphology and what geomorphologists do and then to use the media effectively to spread this message. There are so many other earth science sub-disciplines today that we need to identify our contribution and what makes us distinctive. Brian Finlayson found it necessary to do this in a media release, when asked about what was discussed at the Melbourne conference;

“The nature of our discipline attempts to explain the development of landforms in the long term, so Geomorphologists tend to take a longer term view of ‘change’ than many others. Many threats to the stability of the landscape, other than climate change, were canvassed. Ongoing soil erosion threatens our food producing capabilities; coastal erosion, even without any rise in sea level, threatens infrastructure along the coastal zone; mass slope stability driven by long term tectonic uplift is a daily problem in those parts of the world on subduction and plate collision zones (e.g. Japan, Northern India and Tibet); river erosion and floods threaten those living in river valleys.”

Clearly, the business of Geomorphology is to understand the behaviour of the earth and its processes at a range of temporal and spatial scales. On the one hand, geomorphologists can help meet goals of sustainable management, reduce losses from natural hazards and prepare communities to cope with rapid global change. We are willing and able to help engineers, policy makers and planners to cope with the future. At the same time geomorphologists have always been driven to understand the broader long term questions of landform and environmental change and have been quick to take a leading role in the application of new and exciting dating techniques to answer those questions.

Paris is the location for the next quadrennial IAG/AIG Conference in 2013 - we look forward to seeing you all there. But in the meantime we invite you all to become part of our global family of scientists - visit the web site (<http://www.geomorph.org>), take part in our activities and help others to enjoy and advance geomorphology.

**Michael Crozier**  
*IAG/AIG President*

#### **4. Tricart Award and IAG/AIG Grants for Young Geomorphologists**

##### ***Tricart Award***

In order to honour the achievements and spirit of the late French Geomorphologist Jean Tricart, the **French Geomorphology Group** (Groupe Français de Géomorphologie – GFG) has created the **Jean Tricart Award**. This award of 1000 EUR would be given to an outstanding young (<35 years) Geomorphologist from a developing country, in particular from those countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa which Jean Tricart was particularly involved with.

On the basis of the recommendation of the Selection Committee The first Tricart Award has been received by **Bianca Carvalho Vieira (Brazil)** for her outstanding contribution in the field of Applied Geomorphology at such a young age.

**IAG/AIG Grants**

**IAG/AIG GRANTS** have been awarded to 13 outstanding Young Geomorphologists selected among 33 eligible candidates (out of 44 applications) from i) less-favoured countries worldwide (with a Purchasing Power Parity below 13,000 international dollars, according to the World Development Indicators database, World Bank); ii) countries of south-east Asia and Oceania.

The IAG/AIG grants have been awarded to (alphabetical order):

Shahrazad ABU GHAZLEH (Jordan), Biswajit BERA (India), Mohammad BHUIYAN (Bangladesh), José BUSNELLI (Argentina), Bianca CARVALHO VIEIRA (Brasil), Alastair CLEMENT (New Zealand), Muh Aris MARFAI (Indonesia), Saima SIDDIQUI (Pakistan), Janneli Lea SORIA (Philippines), Danang SRI HADMOKO (Indonesia), Xianyan WANG (China), Dilya WOODWARD (Kazakhstan) and Jibin XUE (China)

**Prof. Mauro Soldati**

*IAG/AIG Training Officer*

**5. National Membership Fee**

As per the proposal of 4<sup>th</sup> IAG/AIG EC Meeting the following rates of annual membership have been decided and unanimously accepted by the Council Members

**(A) Raise in band**

| Country         | Current fee | Proposed fee |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------|
| Argentina       | 100         | 250          |
| Austria         | 100         | 250          |
| Belgium         | 250         | 500          |
| Brazil          | 100         | 250          |
| Czech Republic  | 100         | 250          |
| Denmark         | 100         | 250          |
| Finland         | 100         | 250          |
| France          | 500         | 1000         |
| Hungary         | 100         | 250          |
| India           | 100         | 250          |
| Israel          | 100         | 250          |
| Mexico          | 100         | 250          |
| The Netherlands | 250         | 500          |
| Poland          | 100         | 250          |
| South Korea     | 100         | 250          |
| Russia          | 100         | 250          |
| United States   | 500         | 1000         |

**(B) Increase by 20%**

| Country   | Current fee | Proposed fee |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| Australia | 250         | 300          |
| Canada    | 500         | 600          |
| China     | 500         | 600          |
| Colombia  | 100         | 120          |
| Croatia   | 100         | 120          |
| Estonia   | 100         | 120          |
| Germany   | 1000        | 1200         |
| Greece    | 250         | 300          |
| Italy     | 1000        | 1200         |
| Jamaica   | 100         | 120          |
| Japan     | 1000        | 1200         |
| Lithuania | 100         | 120          |
| Malta     | 100         | 120          |

|                |      |      |
|----------------|------|------|
| New Zealand    | 250  | 300  |
| Norway         | 250  | 300  |
| Portugal       | 250  | 300  |
| Romania        | 100  | 120  |
| Singapore      | 100  | 120  |
| Slovakia       | 100  | 120  |
| Slovenia       | 100  | 120  |
| South Africa   | 100  | 120  |
| Spain          | 1000 | 1200 |
| Switzerland    | 500  | 600  |
| Taiwan         | 100  | 120  |
| Ukraine        | 100  | 120  |
| United Kingdom | 1000 | 1200 |

**(C) New countries in the lower band (120 euros)**

Egypt, Serbia-Montenegro, Macedonia and Venezuela.

## 6. IAG/AIG Working Groups

At IAG/AIG Council meeting during 7<sup>th</sup> ICG, Melbourne, proposals for three new working groups were accepted by the IAG/AIG Council and approved, two groups established in 2007 were ratified, and many working groups from the previous period indicated interest to continue their activities. In recognition of their past achievements, they were endorsed as continuing working groups. All these are listed below. Congratulations to you all!

***New Working Groups and their convenors:***

- **REEForm: Reef and reef landform responses to climatic and environmental change:** Prof. Chris PERRY (UK)
- **Effect of Climate Change on Large Rivers and Deltas:** Prof. Avijit GUPTA (UK/Singapore)
- **Danxia Geomorphology:** Prof. PENG Hua (China) and Prof. Piotr MIGON (Poland)

***Continuing Working Groups and their convenors:***

- **Applied Geomorphological Mapping:** Dr Paolo PARON (Kenya)
- **Carpatho-Balkan-Dinaric Regional Working Group:** Prof. Milos STANKOVIANSKY (Slovakia)
- **Geoarcheology:** Prof. Kosmas PAVLOPOULOS (Greece)
- **Geomorphological Hazards:** Prof. Irasema ALCANTARA-AYALA (Mexico) and Dr. Sunil Kumar DE (India)
- **Geomorphosites** Prof. Emmanuel REYNARD (Switzerland)
- **Human Impact on the Landscape:** Prof. Dénes L\_CZY (Hungary)
- **Planetary Geomorphology:** Dr Mary BOURKE (USA)
- **Rocky Coasts Geomorphology:** Dr Wayne STEPHENSON (Australia) and Dr Larissa NAYLOR (UK)
- **SEDIBUD, Sediment Budgets in Cold Environments:** Dr Achim BEYLICH (Norway)
- **Small Catchments:** Prof. Andrzej KOSTRZEWSKI (Poland)

According to the IAG/AIG rules, only new Working Groups are eligible to receive limited support from the IAG/AIG budget, up to 500 EUR per annum. Detailed procedure how to claim financial support will be sent to you later. The two working groups established in 2007 are also eligible to apply, but only until 2011, to complete the four-years period of possible funding. However, continued annual funding is contingent upon the IAG/AIG Executive receiving a satisfactory annual report. Annual reports are also requested from continuing Working Groups. Annual reports should include a brief summary of objectives, activities and outcomes, indicating the extent of progress toward their completion. They should also include a brief statement on expenditure of funds. These reports do not need to be very elaborate and can be sent via email by end of February each year starting 2010. In the first report early next year, the Executive Committee will be particularly keen to learn about the objectives set for this 2009-2013 term. It is envisaged that annual reports

will be made available via the IAG/AIG Website and possibly the IAG/AIG Newsletter, so that the international community is aware of the progress made in a particular field and individuals may make an informed decision to join the activity of a working group of their interest. Although regular reporting is important, the Executive is most keen to see that the activity of the working groups results in tangible outputs, especially publications that have the potential for a wide distribution.

The IAG/AIG Website, moderated by Professor Zbigniew Zwolinski (zbow@amu.edu.pl), and the IAG/AIG Newsletter, now coordinated by Professor Sunil Kumar De (desunil@yahoo.com), are open to Working Groups which are welcome to submit materials at any time, whether announcements of forthcoming activities or more detailed reports from past activities. Working Groups are also welcome to create their own internet sites, linked to the IAG/AIG website. Professor David Higgitt (geodh@nus.edu.sg), a co-opted member of the Executive, has a specific task to explore links with media, to enhance the visibility of geomorphology and to promote the work of geomorphologists. He will welcome information about any outreach activities undertaken by the group and can provide assistance, if a working group wishes to make its activities more visible.

**Piotr Migon**

*Vice President ( IAG/AIG Working Groups Coordinator)*

## **7. New National Scientific Members**

The following New National Scientific Members have been adapted to the IAG/AIG List of National Members:

**1. Hellenic Committee for Geomorphology and Environment**

President: Prof. Alici Alexouli-Livaditi, National Technical University of Athens

**2. Ethiopian Geomorphological Association (EGA)**

Convenor: Dr. Mohammed Umer, Department of Earth Sciences, Addis Ababa University

## **8. Intensive Course for Young Geomorphologists**

The Intensive Course for Young Geomorphologists was organized during the 7<sup>th</sup> ICG, Melbourne by the IAG/AIG under the supervision of Kerrie Tomkins and Jonathon Brown. A total of 33 participants from different countries participated of course (Australia, USA, China, Brazil, Germany, Poland, France, Russia, New Zealand, Belgium, Philippines, South Korea, India, Mexico, Spain, Pakistan Canada and Lithuania). The aim of the course was to visit a few of the landscapes in Australia, located in proximity to Melbourne. The program included one day seminar and a three days field trip:

- First day (12 July): Lectures on different topics and career in Geomorphology at the University of Melbourne (Melbourne School of Land and Environment). Speakers: Prof. Andrew Goudie, Prof. Kirstie Fryirs, Prof. John Chappell, Prof. Takashi Oguchi, Prof. Jim Bowler, Prof. Zhongyuan Chen and Prof. Mike Crozier.
- Second Day (13 July) (Field trip): Twelve Apostles by Great Ocean Road and the volcanic plains on the coast and inland of Western Victoria.
- Third Day (14 July) (Field trip): Little Desert National Park, where native vegetation and sand ridges of the Loxton-Parilla Sands strand-plain are existing.
- Fourth Day (15 July) (Field trip): Grampians National Park, where the history of aboriginal occupation, Mt Arapiles and salt lakes of the Wimmera Plains were shown.

**Bianca Carvalho Vieira**

*Tricart Fellow*

## 9. Upcoming Seminars/Conferences/Workshops/Trainings Programmes

1. **Braga, Portugal (September 9-13, 2009)**  
**Intensive Course on Geodiversity and Geological Heritage Assessment** (Contact: Prof. José Brilha, Earth Sciences Centre, University of Minho, Campus de Gualtar, 4710-057 Braga, PORTUGAL E-mail: [jbrilha@dct.uminho.pt](mailto:jbrilha@dct.uminho.pt))
2. **Modena & Alta Badia (Dolomites), Italy (September 13-18, 2009)**  
 AIGeo Conference in honour of the IAG/AIG Past-President **Mario Panizza** on “**The Role of Geomorphology in Land Management**” (for details log on to: <http://www.aigeomodena.unimore.it/>)
3. **Murcia, Spain (September 16-18, 2009)**  
 International Conference on Desertification in Memory of **Professor John B. Thornes**, (for details log on to: <http://fobos.bio.um.es/thornesi/doku.php>)
4. **Allahabad, India (October 20-31, 2009)**  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Indian Institute of Geomorphologists (IGI) Conference and National Seminar on “Man Environment Relations: A Vision for Green Earth”. A felicitation function will also held in honor of Prof. Savindra Singh, the Secretary General of IGI (since the inception of IGI)
5. **Marsa Matruh and Siwa, Egypt (November 1-5, 2009)**  
 2nd International Symposium & Field Workshop on “**Living with Landscapes Adaptation with Coasts and Arid Lands**” (for details log on to: <http://www.siwa2009.com>)
6. **Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu, India (July 21-23, 2010)**  
 4th Session of the IAG/AIG Working Group on Geomorphological Hazards (IAGEOMHAZ) & **International Workshop on Geomorphological Hazards**, (Contact: Prof. N. Chandrasekhar, Centre for Geo-Technology, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli – 627 012. Tamil Nadu, India. E-mail: [geohazardsmsu@gmail.com](mailto:geohazardsmsu@gmail.com). Website: <http://www.geohazardsmsu.co.nr/>)
7. **Tel-Aviv (July, 2010)**  
 IGU Regional Conference, (Contact for details: Professor Hanoch Lavee, President, Mobile: 972-50-2153839, E-mail: [lavee.igu@kinneret.ac.il](mailto:lavee.igu@kinneret.ac.il))
8. **Thessaloniki, Greece (23-26 September 2010)**  
**19th Congress of the Carpathian-Balkan Geological Association (CBGA 2010)**. Deadline for receipt of manuscripts of full paper is November 30, 2009 (for details log on to: <http://www.cbga2010.org>)

### *Editor's Note*

The success of the IAG/AIG Newsletter depends upon the contributions that we receive. On behalf of IAG/AIG I would request you to assist us by supplying information related to the forthcoming activities and innovations in geomorphology in your respective countries (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.

*Published by*

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