



International Association of Geomorphologists

Association Internationale des Géomorphologues

IAG/AIG Newsletter No. 28 (3/2012)

From the Editor's Desk

Dear Geomorphologists

I thank you all for your kind help and co-operation in enabling me to publish the newsletter on time. I request that you continue this co-operation in order that future issues of the newsletter continue to be published on time.

Sunil Kumar De

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1. Publications

a. *Geomorphology and World Heritage*

Natural landscapes may be inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List for a number of reasons. Many iconic landscapes hold the World Heritage status (for complete list see the website whc.unesco.org) and many do so because their scenic beauty is overwhelming. Grand Canyon of the Colorado River, Victoria Falls, Norwegian Fjords, Uluru, and Mulu karst in Malaysia are but a few examples. But there is much more in these places than superlative scenery to enjoy. Each of these landscapes tells a story of the development of landforms. In a paper recently published in *World Heritage Review* no. 63 (available also through the IAG website) and entitled 'Stories behind superlative scenery' Piotr Migoń examines how much beautiful sceneries are underpinned by geomorphology and reviews a few case studies. In this way, the contribution of geomorphology to understand the great landscapes is made evident. *World Heritage Review* is a magazine published jointly by UNESCO and Publishing for Development (printed four times a year in English, French and Spanish). The publication presents and promotes the preservation of World Heritage, with detailed feature articles and news items about the most outstanding cultural and natural sites in the world. Copies of no. 63 and selected past issues of the magazine can be downloaded from whc.unesco.org/en/review.

Piotr Migoń, *IAG/AIG Vice-President*

b. *Shaping a nation - a text book on Australian Geology and Landscapes:*

A major new review of the geological and environmental evolution of Australia was released in August 2012. The volume, "Shaping a nation", explores geology, landscapes, and resources of the Australian continent. The book is edited by Richard Blewett and printed by ANU Press in association with Geoscience Australia. Print copies of the 570p page book are available, but it is also available as a free pdf download from the following URL: <http://epress.anu.edu.au/titles/shaping-a-nation>

David Dunkerley, *IAG/AIG, Vice-President*

2. Conference Reports

16th Joint Geomorphological Meeting – “Morphoevolution of Tectonically Active Belts” – Rome, July 1-5, 2012

The Joint Geomorphological Meetings (JGMs) are informal events organized yearly by the official national Geomorphological groups or Associations of Romania, Belgium, France, Greece and Italy (*AGR*, - *Asociata Geomorfologilor din Romania*; *BAG* - *Belgian Association of Geomorphologists*; *GFG* - *Groupe Français de Géomorphologie*; *HCGE* - *Hellenic Committee for Geomorphology and Environment*; *AIGeo* - *Associazione Italiana di Geografia fisica e Geomorfologia*). Their primary aim, as agreed upon by the 5 promoting countries, is to favor exchange of knowledge and to encourage discussion on different geomorphological topics, directly facing the field reality.

The 16th JGM was held in Rome, on July 1-5, 2012. This edition was focused on the complex geomorphic responses to tectonics in active belts. This is doubtless an interesting and topical theme, especially for countries, such as Italy, that are often affected by dramatic seismic events.

The 16th JGM was warmly and enthusiastically attended by 75 participants, coming from 11 different countries. Among them the IAG Vice-Presidents, Piotr Migoń and Eric Fouache, the IAG Secretary General,

Morgan De Dapper, the Executive member, Mauro Soldati, and most of the Presidents of the promoting countries national Associations and groups.

The 16th JGM has taken place mainly in the field; therefore we had the first day in the Earth Science Department of Sapienza University of Rome, for the presentation of the solicited lectures, one for each of the promoting countries, and for poster session, held in the Paleontological Museum. The standard of presented lectures and posters confirmed the importance of the selected topic and the awareness that geomorphological studies afford an essential contribution to the comprehension of active tectonics.

During the business meeting of the representatives of the promoting countries, it was discussed the importance of the participation of young geomorphologists to the JGMs and Belgium was proposed and chosen as the organizing country for the next 17th JGM. Moreover it was decided to postdate the 17th JGM to 2014, due to the imminent and important event of Paris 2013 International Conference on Geomorphology.

The 3 days long field-trip crossed the major Plio-Quaternary intermontane basins of the Central Apennines. Most of the active intra-orogenic seismicity is clustered, in fact, along the axis of the chain, where these intermontane basins originated from the activity of extensional and transtensional faults. We have first observed the remnants one of the most internal Quaternary paleoshoreline of the Tyrrhenian side of central Italy (Fara in Sabina Mts.) and then moved to the Rieti intermontane basin, to discuss about paleolandscape reconstructions and tectonic geomorphology. Then we have visited the sites affected by the L'Aquila earthquake, occurred on April 6, 2009. We have continued the field-trip by seeing amazing examples of stream piracy and drainage inversion on the Middle Aterno Valley and Subequana basin. Then we have moved to the Sulmona basin, where we have seen also wonderful examples of deep seated gravitational slope deformations and rock avalanches. Then we have concluded in the area of Cassino town, with other examples of tectonic landforms. During the field-trip young Italian geomorphologists showed the results of their researches in the field and interesting discussions were undertaken among people from different countries. We received many positive feedbacks about the scientific organization, the accommodation and food all over the joint meeting. For this reason is my great pleasure to express sincere thanks and praise to the Scientific and Organizing Committees and to all the other people who helped for the realization of the meeting.

Selected photographs from the field trip can be viewed at <http://www.16jgm-rome2012.org/photogallery/>

Paola Fredi, *President of AIGeo, Associazione Italiana di Geografia fisica e Geomorfologia.*



Group photograph of the participants

3. Young Geomorphologists Section

i. GRANTS for the IAG International Workshop on Objective Geomorphological Representation Models: Breaking through a New Geomorphological Mapping Frontier Salerno - Italy, 15-19 October 2012

4 GRANTS of 500 euros each have been awarded to the following Young Geomorphologists from MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES selected among the applicants:

IAG/AIG GRANT:

Alvaro GOMEZ GUTIERREZ (Spain)

University of Salerno GRANTS:

Georgios DELIGIANNAKIS (Greece)

Konstantinos TSANAKAS (Greece)

Parco Nazionale del Cilento, Vallo di Diano e Alburni GRANT:

Alessia PICA (Italy)

ii. IAG/AIG GRANTS for the Workshop on Dryland Geomorphology Gobabeb, Namibia, 8-12 September 2012

3 GRANTS of 350 euros have been awarded to the following Young Geomorphologists from AFRICA selected among the applicants

Christel HANSEN (Namibia)

Nandipha MABUZA (Swaziland)

Johanna NIPELE (Namibia)

Mauro Soldati, IAG/AIG Training Officer

4. 8th International Conference on Geomorphology (8th ICG)

The last date of submitting abstract in the 8th International Conference on Geomorphology, Paris is extended up to 1st November, 2012. For details please see the IAG/AIG visit: www.goemorph.org. A brief glimpse of the 8th ICG is given below:

a. Technical Sessions

There will be 52 Sessions and sub-sessions in the Conference. The detailed list and corresponding Chairpersons names have been published in the previous newsletter

b. List of field trips

Pre-conference Excursions

B1 - Waters and Wines: from Burgundy to Champagne

B2 - Moselle and Meuse Basins

B3 - Geomorphology, local products and wine of South West France and North Spain

Mid-conference Excursions

I1 - Underground Paris

I2 - Gardens of Paris

I3 - The 1910 Flood in Paris

I5 - Valley of the Seine between Mantes and Vernon

I6 - Chalk cliff and soil erosion in High Normandy

I7 - Landslides in coastal slopes of Pays d'Auge

I9 - Hydrological processes within Sec-iton catchment

Post-conference Excursions

P1 - Middle and High Belgium

P2 - Molène Archipelago (Brittany)

P3 - Loire River Valley

P4 - Swiss Alps (Zermatt Valley and Cervin)

P5 - Volcanoes, basins and cultural heritage of the Auvergne region

P6 - Western North Alps (France, Italy)

P7 - South French Alps

P8 - Exploring the languedoc's geomorphosites and their development as heritage sites

P9 - Southern Massif Central

P10 - Geomorphology of the Pyrenean Orogen

P11 - Historical human impacts on the hillslopes and streams of the Morvan (Central France)

P12 - Normandy coast countryside
 P14 - Intensive course for young geomorphologists

c. **Publications**

An updated list of journals and book series open to post-conference publication of special issues and selected papers is given below. Session Conveners can feel free to contact journal editors and book publishers to ask if they are interested to publish the papers presented in their sessions.

- EARTH SURFACE PROCESSES AND LANDFORMS – contact Stuart Lane : stuart.lane@unil.ch
- GEOMORPHOLOGY – contact Richard Marston: rmarston@k-state.edu
- ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR GEOMORPHOLOGIE – contact K.-H. Pfeffer: prof.pfeffer@online.de (with cc to A. Nägele: mail@schweizerbart.de)
- GEOGRAFIA FISICA E DINAMICA QUATERNARIA – contact Adriano Ribolini: ribolini@dst.unipi.it
- GEOMORPHOLOGIE – contact Gilles Arnaud-Fassetta: gilles.arnaud-fassetta@univ-paris-diderot.fr
- GEOGRAFISKA ANNALER A – contact Jan Boelhouwers and Peter Jansson: jan.boelhouwers@kultgeog.uu.se - peter.jansson@natgeo.su.se
- GEODINAMICA ACTA – Hervé Piégay: herve.piegay@ens-lyon.fr
- LANDFORM ANALYSIS – contact Zbigniew Zwolinski: zbzw@amu-edu.pl
- PROGRESS IN PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY – contact Nick Clifford: nicholas.clifford@kcl.ac.uk
- PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY – contact Carol Harden: charden@utk.edu
- SEDIMENTARY GEOLOGY – contact Jasper Knight: Jasper.Knight@wits.ac.za
- NATURAL HAZARDS – contact Thomas Glade: thomas.glade@univie.ac.at or another member of the editorial board
- NATURAL HAZARDS AND EARTH SYSTEM SCIENCES – contact Thomas Glade: thomas.glade@univie.ac.at or another member of the editorial board
- GEORISK – contact Thomas Glade: thomas.glade@univie.ac.at or another member of the editorial board
- JOURNAL OF MAPS – contact Mike Smith: Michael.smith@kingston.ac.uk
- PHYSIO-GEO – jean-Louis Ballais: jean-louis.ballais@wanadoo.fr
- CRC PRESS/BALKEMA – contact Alister Bright: Alistair.Bright@taylorandfrancis.com
- SPRINGER – contact Robert Doe: Robert.Doe@springer.com

5. Upcoming Seminars/Conferences/Workshops/Training Programmes

i. USA

8th IAHS GROUNDWATER QUALITY CONFERENCE (GQ13) on *Managing Groundwater Quality to Support Competing Human and Ecological Needs*. April 21-26, 2013. University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA. For more details please visit: www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/gq13

ii. Australia

15th biennial conference of the Australian and New Zealand Geomorphology Group. This is a special conference to mark 30 years of the ANZGG. It will be held in the southern tabelands of New South Wales, from 2-7 December 2012. The first circular has all required details and is available at <http://www.anzgg.org/index.html>

iii. Romania

IAG/AIG has become co-organizer of the **6th International Symposium on Gully Erosion in a Changing World, to be held in Iasi, Romania, on 6-12 May 2013**. The objectives of the Symposium are to communicate exciting scientific developments, to identify current gaps in knowledge and to discuss ways in which soils and land can be better managed to meet the challenge of protecting environment against the impacts of climate change and increased human induced pressure. The symposium 2013 continues the sequence of successful meetings held in Leuven (Belgium, 2000), Chengdu (China, 2002), Oxford (USA, 2004), Pamplona (Spain, 2007) and Lublin (Poland, 2010).

Circular No. 2 is uploaded on the IAG/AIG Website: www.geomorph.org. More details about the symposium and registration can be found at Symposium Website: www.gullyerosion2013.com
 Prof. Dr. Ion Ionita. E-mail: ion.ionita72@yahoo.com

iv. Italy

3rd Circular of the IAG/AIG International Workshop on “Objective Geomorphological Representation Models: Breaking through a New Geomorphological Mapping Frontier”. Organized by the *Department of Civil Engineering, University of Salerno (Italy) and European Cilento & Vallo di Diano Geopark (Italy)* during October 15-19, 2012 is available online at the IAG/AIG Website: www.geomorph.org.

v. India

Silver Jubilee Conference of Indian Institute of Geomorphologists (IGI) and National Seminar on “Upgrading Technologies and Degrading Earth’s Environment: Reality or Myth”. *December 22 – 24, 2012*. Department of Geography, University of Allahabad, Allahabad, UP, India. For more details please contact Prof. Alok Dubey, *Convener*, 25th IGI (E-mail: igisilverjubilee25@gmail.com) or IGI website: www.igi-india.in

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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