Post-Conference fieldtrip Rhodes Island

In memory of Paolo Pirazzoli

Dates: 22-25 September 2019
After the RCG2019 Conference in Athens, a fieldtrip to Rhodes Island (Aegean Sea) took place during 22-25 September 2019, where participants had the opportunity to know the rich coastal geomorphology of the island. The fieldtrip was organized by Prof. Niki Evelpidou (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens), Dr. Vasilis Kapsimalis (Hellenic Centre for Marine Research), Dr. Dimitris Sakellariou (Hellenic Centre for Marine Research) and Dr. Anna Karkani (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens).

*Figure 1: Rhodes field trip participants.*
11 researchers participated in the fieldtrip coming from Canada, Austria, Brazil, Israel, Australia and China (Fig. 1). Before the beginning of the fieldtrip, all participants received the fieldtrip guide with information on the geology and tectonics of Rhodes Island, along with detailed description of the stops during the three days. The electronic form of the fieldtrip guide is available at the following link: https://www.academia.edu/40389254/Fieldtrip_Guide_Post-Conference_Fieldtrip_IAG_Regional_Conference_2019

A brief introduction to the content and stops of the fieldtrip is available in the following video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhxJeGli_jw

The program of the fieldtrip included some introductory lectures for Rhodes Island on the first day, 22/9/2019, and all lectures are available in the YouTube links below. 

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rdv_mu5Wvn8
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdrz6FKY0xM
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jZVmldvnSUc

The next two days were devoted to the rich coastal geomorphology of the island, covering topics of coastal evolution, relative sea level changes, tectonics, paleoseismicity history and of course cultural activities. The participants had the opportunity to visit coastal areas subjected to differential tectonic movements during the Late Quaternary.

During the 2nd day, an underwater ancient quarry (Fig. 2), probably of Roman Age, was visited. The team visited also the impressive sedimentary features of Plio-Pleistocene deposits such as giant foresets (Fig. 3), a spectacular series of continuous ripple notches revealing at least 6 palaeoshorelines of Late Holocene (Fig. 4), a tombolo at the southern tip of Rhodes island, that is not existent during the whole year, and an uplifted beachrock along with numerous broken slabs suggesting a high energy event.

The rich geomorphology during the day was then replaced by a dinner at the city of Rhodes.
Figure 2: Rectangular cuts of the coastal quarries, which nowadays, lie at about -0.4 m.

Figure 3: Sedimentary features at Kalithea site.
The 3rd day was also full of activities. The team visited Tsambika beach, where the participants had the opportunity to swim. Along the limestone cliffs of Tsambika, a series of palaeoshorelines were visible, revealing a different history in comparison to the sites visited during the previous day.

The next stops of the day included a number of uplifted terraces and faults, forming a step-like landscape. At Lindos town, the acropolis of Lindos was visited (Fig. 5), a naturally fortified hill, corresponding to a typical tectonic horst developed on the footwall of two cross-cutting faults. During our visit at the archaeological site, a guide spoke of the archaeological history of the area.

The participants visited some characteristic features of Lindos peninsula, which is tectonically separated from the rest of the island by a series of faults. An impressive structure was the Pefkos fault (Fig. 6), which bore evidence to its most recent movement possibly during historical times, by the presence of a light colored, <1 m wide stripe.
Afterwards, the team visited Embonas village where they had wine tasting at a local winery, followed by a traditional dinner.

During the last day, the participants visited the old city of Rhodes with a tour guide in the morning before their trip back to Athens.

The following video includes a summary of all fieldtrip activities in Rhodes Island.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b4s90z2PhzE&t=2s