

## **Report on the IAG Regional Conference on Geomorphology and post-conference Intensive Course for Young Geomorphologists**

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### **IAG Regional Conference on Geomorphology**

It was a wonderful experience attending the recently concluded RCG in Athens as one of the IAG-grant holders. It was a pleasure to get the grant for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time after ICG 2017, for which I am extremely grateful to the Selection Committee appointed by the IAG. The conference, although much smaller in comparison with the quadrennial ICG, was at par with the eminence offered by the ICG. The program scheduling was efficiently handled by Prof. Niki Evelpidou and her team from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. A special acknowledgement is due for the group of students and scholars of the university, who worked relentlessly to make this event a success.



Since there were only two parallel sessions ran simultaneously throughout the conference period, it was easy to make choices and attend the desired lectures. The keynote lectures were quite insightful. I would specially like to mention about Prof Taylor Perron's presentation on the 'Imprint of river capture on continental topography and biodiversity', which was the curtain raiser of the event in a true sense.

However, in my opinion, the ill-management by the conference management group Artion was evident right from the beginning. The registration, issuing of invitation letter and certificates, refreshment arrangements etc. could have been done in a better way.

### Post-conference Intensive Course for Young Geomorphologists

The post-conference intensive course on ‘Coastal Geomorphology of climatically and tectonically sensitive areas’ was magnificently arranged by Prof. Efthimios Karymbalis and his team from Harokopio University. The lectures and practical sessions organized on Day 1 and Day 2 covered various topics like faulting and uplifting in the Corinth region, evolution of marine terraces of Northern Peloponnese active tectonic zones, methods for assessing erosion rates in the coastal region, marine terrace mapping, application of UAV and remote sensing for assessing coastline changes etc. In spite of the long lecture hours, the activities on the first two days during the training was quite interesting as those were the run-ups to the field visits for the next two days.



The field trip on Day 3 to the North Peloponnese comprised of visits to the Kakia Skala Fault, Corinth Canal, Diolkos, North Peloponnese uplifted marine terraces, perched fan-deltas and reverse drainages. Prof. Dimitris Papanastassiou and Dr. David Fernández-Blanco led our group on this day and introduced us to the complex geomorphic characteristics of the Greek mainland. There were multiple stops en route where they systematically explained about the structural units and related



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topographic expressions. On Day 4, we first visited the marine terraces and tidal notches in the Perachora Peninsula. Later part of the day consists of more hands-on exercises in the Psatha (Alkyonides Gulf) region as we learned different techniques associated with the vibrocore drilling for reconstruction of palaeo-depositional environments, Coastline tracing using UAV, construction of coastal bathymetric profiles and high resolution seismic profiles by using a marine vessel. Prof. Niki Evelpidou, Prof. Eleana Karkani, Dr. Konstantinos Tsanakas, Dr. Emmanuel Vassilakis, Dr. Vasilis Kapsimalis and their team were instrumental for quite an engaging day of activities.

The hands-on training program continued to Day 5 in the laboratories of the Department of Geography of Harokopio University. We were taught about interpreting the stratigraphy of the Borehole sediment, granulometric and micropalaeontological analyses of the samples. At the end of this day, we went together for a rather (un)official dinner to unwind ourselves from the long schedule that started with the pre-conference field visits. In the last day (Day 6), we went to the Hellenic Center for Marine Research (HCMR) for the following up of the coastal bathymetry-related field exercise. We learned about preparation of bathymetric maps from different bathymetry data, analysis and interpretation of high-resolution seismic profiles.

To sum up, the conference and the intensive course for Young Geomorphologists were extremely productive. Despite coming from various parts of the world, the young geomorphologists interacted quite well. I sincerely hope that this opportunity for communication should pave the way for many collaborative works in the future.