



IAG Regional Conference on Geomorphology
Geomorphology of Climatically and Tectonically sensitive areas

Athens, Greece, 19-21 September 2019

2nd IAG-EGU Intensive Course

Report of IAG grant holder

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Being a regular participant of conferences held under the banner of International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG), I was very much aspirant about this regional conference which was scheduled to be held in Athens, Greece during 19-21 September, 2019. I always trust that all such conferences organized by IAG are opportunities to present my research and receive suggestions from different eminent scientists and young researchers around the globe. These are also creating social platform to meet, discuss and learn about new concepts, technologies and other innovations about geomorphology playing worldwide.

I would like to share my experience about the conference in two parts. The first is the main conference part and the second is the field training programme organized particularly for the young Geomorphologists.

For the main conference part, I must say that like all places in Athens the National and Kapodistrian University, the conference venue was no different and possess great historical essence. Inaugural session was organized on 19th morning at the Conference Center of the said university (Fig-1A). The session was ornamented with IAG committee members lectures, felicitations of senior scholars and awarding young geomorphologists (Fig-1B) followed by two keynote lectures of Prof. Andreas Vött and Prof. Emmanuel Reynard. I really learned several things from their mesmerizing lectures.

The best part of this conference which initially drew my attention was that, it addressed a variety of topics which covered almost all aspects of geomorphology. Most of the speakers of the plenary sessions were outstanding and the topics covered were very apt. The three days conference was very much well organized and planned with different sessions. I have attended several lectures presented

by Giovanni Scicchitano, Pedro Hennque Lima, Anita Bernatek-Jakiel, Takashi Oguchi Ettore Valente, Dimitris Sakellariou, Pedro Val and so many others which I found really innovative and I have learned so many things from those presentations.

My presentation was scheduled on second day under the session of 'Human Impacts of Geomorphic Systems'. That session was chaired and co-chaired by Dan Balteanu and Allan James respectably. My presentation goes well and I have received really good suggestions from the chair persons as well as from the audience.

Besides oral sessions, postal sessions of this conference were worthy. As the poster sessions were well distributed along the three days conference and also had separate time designated, I had a great one to one interaction with some of the poster presenters and enriched with several new ideas, concepts and techniques.



Fig-1. (A) Ongoing Inaugural Ceremony of RCG-Athens; (B) Granting and honoring Young Geomorphologists on the Dias

The six days extensive field training programme was started from the very next day of the conference. This training programme was mapped with lecture sessions, hands on training of instruments, softwares and two days training in field. Most of the lecture sessions and hands on trainings were organized in Harokopio University and for the last day it was scheduled in Hellenic Center for Marine Research (HCMR). I must say that it was the unconditional efforts of Efthimios Karymbalis, Niki Evelpidou, Dimitris Papanastassiou, Emmanuel Vassilakis, Vasilis Kapsimalis, Dimitris Sakellariou and their teams which made that training programme brilliant and remarkable.

At the first day of training we were precisely guided by some conference volunteers and reached to Harokopio University on time. On behalf of Marta Dela Seta, Mauro Soldati conducted the inaugural session followed by an introductory session among the young geomorphologists.



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The main session was planned with four lectures of David Fernández- Blanco, Dimitris Papanastassiou, Julius Jara and Stefano Furlani respectfully (Fig-2A). I really enjoyed and learned a lot from those lectures specially from the talk of Dimitris Papanastassiou's about indicators of upliftment of the marine terraces of Northern Peloponnese and Julius Jara's talk about metrics and models of coastal landscape evolution, novel tools to measure surface deformation.

The second day was well planned with hands on training of coastal landforms and displacement mapping by GPS, remote sensing and GIS softwares, use of TerraceM software for terrace modelling and extraction of the coastline using UAV techniques (Fig-2B). That was really a good interactive daylong session and we all were supplied with images and shape files for personal practicing.

Third and fourth days were set up for field visits. Third day we went to the broader area of Melissi-Kiato-Xylokastro with field experts. There we experienced the uplifted marine terraces of North Peloponnese, most of the major indicators of such evolution (Fig-2C), all of which would have discussed at the first day lecture session. I felt like experiencing test book examples of several geomorphic features over the field.

Next day field trip was arranged to visit Ireon - Perachora Peninsula, Bay and swamp of Psatha of Alkyonides Gulf. At the first and second stops Niki Evelpidou, Stefano Furlani and others beautifully explained about the formation of tidal notches as an indicators of sea level change (Fig-2D). After that we had visited several spots where we practically learned borehole drilling using portable drilling tools, coastline tracing with RTK-GNSS, high resolution UAV data Collection by Drone, measurement of physical parameters using CTD and collection of sediments using grab sampler, bathymetric survey using a single-beam echo sounder and analyzing sea-bottom by side scan sonar (Fig-2E). These all practices were stunningly done under the expert's guidance of Hampik Maroukian, Konstantinos Tsanakas, Dimitris Papanastassiou, Niki Evelpidou, Efthimios Karymbalis, Eleana Karkani, Giannis Saitis, Vasilis Batzakis, Emmanuel Vassilakis, Dimitris Vandarakis Vasilis Kapsimalis, Ioannis Panagiotopoulos. Dimitris Sakellariou and many others.

Next day was planned with practical lessons about the visual stratigraphic interpretation of the collected bore-hole samples, Granulometric and Micro-paleontological analysis (Fig-2F) of the selected samples and discussion about the results.

The last day again had a lecture session organized at the Hellenic Center for Marine Research. There we had another interactive and explanation session of what we had seen in the last day field. After the session we had visited Saronic Gulf and enjoyed a lot.

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Overall, the training programme was very much impressive and informative. All the theoretical lectures along with practical hands on training helped me to learn so many things and to adopt new technologies. I can surely admit that training programme was the best training programme I had ever attended.

I would like to convey my sincere regards to Efthimios Karymbalis, his colleagues and students for organizing such enthralling conference and training programme. I also thank Mauro Soldati and all other EC members of the IAG for providing me opportunities to attend such beautiful conference.

Thank you all.



Fig-2. (A) Ongoing lecture session in Harokopio University; (B) Hands on training in softwares in university lab; (C) Discussion in 1st Day field; (D) Exploration of tidal notches in field; (E) Vessel expedition for ocean sediment collection and bathymetry survey; (F) Micro-palaeontological lab analysis of samples