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**From:**

Augusto Auler / IAH KARST COMMISSION



**Karst  
Commission**

# KARST COMMISSION NEWS

August 2021

Chairmen: Zhang Cheng (Asia/Oceania), Augusto Auler (Americas), Zoran Stevanović (Europe/Africa).

Editor: Augusto Auler

## KARST COMMISSION ELECTION RESULTS

Dear members and friends of the Karst Commission.

We are pleased to announce the results of the elections for chairmen of the Karst Commission for the period running from 01 September 2021 to 31 August 2025. All three candidates were elected by a large margin. Congratulations to all. A total of 36 votes (one of them incomplete) were recorded. Here are the final results:

Ben Tobin (Americas) - Yes (33); No (0); Neutral (2).

Avi Burg (Asia, Oceania) - Yes (29); No (2); Neutral (4).

Peter Málík (Europe, Africa) - Yes (35); No (0); Neutral (1).

We welcome the new trio and wish them a productive mandate!!

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## A SHORT OVERVIEW OF THE KARST COMMISSION ACTIVITIES DURING OUR PAST MANDATE

During the period September 2017- August 2021 Zoran Stevanović (Serbia), Augusto Auler (Brazil) and Zhang Cheng (China) served and rotated as **Chairs of the Karst Commission**.

2020 was a special year for the KC because of its **50th anniversary**. However, the COVID-19 pandemic situation forced us to postpone some of the planned activities, such as our 50th anniversary celebration which included a ceremony to honor three long standing KC members for their lifetime achievements in karst science: Dr. Derek Ford (Americas), Dr. Petar Milanovic (Europe/Africa), Dr. Yuan Daoxian (Asia/Oceania).

In the period 2017-2021 the **KC annual meetings** were held during the IAH congresses and karst conferences (Dubrovnik, Croatia in 2017; Besançon, France in 2018, and Malaga, Spain in 2019), while due to COVID -19, the planned annual meeting during the karst conference in Bowling Green in 2020 was cancelled. Several other international meetings focusing on karst were also organized or supported by the KC or had an active contribution of KC members (EUROKARST, EGU, AGU, KARST2018, KARST2020, IWRA, Man and Karst, AEG, etc.).

Several **educational courses** on karst hydrogeology have been regularly organized until 2020, when online dissemination of knowledge and learning materials become dominant (Intern. Karst Training Course, IRCK Guilin; CEKA Univ. of Belgrade; KARSYS, ISSKA; 'Classical Karst', KRI Postojna; HYDROKARST, Univ. Malaga, etc.).

KC members have published several international monographs, and numerous papers in renowned journals. The major achievement in 2020 was the preparation of the **Special Issue of Hydrogeology Journal** dedicated to karst edited by A. Auler and Z. Stevanović. This Special Issue, titled "Five decades of advances in karst hydrogeology" was printed in February 2021 and contains 29 papers written by 97 authors from 20 countries.

Two **large projects supported by the KC** were completed at the beginning of the mandate of Past-Chairs: The WOKAM (World Karst Aquifer Map) and DIKTAS (Dinaric Karst Transboundary Aquifer System), while others are still going on, among them IGCP 661 -The Critical Zone in Karst Systems; KARMA (Karst Aquifer Resources Availability and Quality in the Mediterranean Area); The WoKaS – World Karst Spring hydrograph database; Karst Modelling Challenge.

After many years, a traditional event of the KC was reestablished. **The Karst Commission Geotrip** along the southern margin of the Carpathian Mountains, between the Danube and Olt rivers was organized by colleagues from Serbia and Romania and took place between 15-18 of June 2019.

The KC has continued to award talented karst hydrogeologists and issued nine “**Young Karst Researcher Awards**” during the karst events in 2017, 2018 and 2019. The two other approved awards **Funding for young scientists to attend karst commission conferences** and **Funding for low income young scientists to attend geotrips** have not been implemented yet.

As of August 2021, the KC has 74 members. During our mandate 22 **new members** joined the KC, many from countries that were not previously represented in the KC.

Our **website** was re-designed with the support of member Aidan Foley. It is now functioning as a sub-site of the IAH website (<https://karst.iah.org>), and is regularly updated. Thanks mostly to our member Andreas Hartmann, KC is present in the social media Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/iahkarst/>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/iahkarst>), while Catherine Coxon is handling our LinkedIn platform which now has more than 100 members (<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4957376/profile>).

A. Auler has been regularly preparing issues of the KC News, our monthly newsletter sent it electronically to our members and friends.

The last four years of the KC activities can be considered as highly productive but also challenging due to global threats caused by COVID-19, which reduced or cancelled many planned actions. However, “in this ever-changing world, it is expected that the IAH Karst Commission will keep its central role as a focus point for the exchange of ideas, fostering further valuable and productive decades of karst hydrogeology development” (Auler & Stevanović, *Preface of the HJ Special issue*).

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## KARST COMMISSION ONLINE MEETING

### 01 September

In order to mark the end of our mandate and the beginning of the new one, an online Karst Commission meeting will be organized on September 01, at 3:00 pm (Central European Time).

It has been nearly two years since the last meeting of the Karst Commission in Malaga 2019. It will be an opportunity to discuss new plans and comment about the past mandate. A specific e-mail will be sent closer to the date.

Hope to see you all there!!

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## NEW FREE BOOK "THE LANDS OF KARST"

Karst Commission members Neven Kresic and Zoran Stevanović have just released a beautiful photographic e-book named "The Lands of Karst. A Visual Story". Here is Zoran's statement:

*The book comprises almost five hundred color photographs from six lands of Karst - Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, and North Macedonia (all ex-Yugoslavia republics), which had been recorded by more than 70 geologists, speleologists, biologists, archaeologists, mountaineers, professional photographers or simply amateurs - karst and caves lovers. Following the rule "a picture is worth a thousand words" Neven and I have prepared very short informative texts for 10 chapters featuring photographs of noisy rivers, wild mountains, silent lakes, the sea, limestone walls, rough surfaces, fountains of life, windows to unknown, magic chambers, underground creatures, wildlife, and past and present human inhabitants.*

The book can be downloaded for free at: [www.karst.edu.rs/en](http://www.karst.edu.rs/en).

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## IAH CONGRESSES IN BRAZIL AND BELGIUM

It's time for the two sequential IAH congresses, the 47th IAH Congress in Brazil (August 22 - 26) and the 48th IAH Congress in Brussels, Belgium (September 6 - 10) are now just a few days away. For information about the fully online Brazilian congress please go to: <https://iah2021brazil.org/en/>. Information on the face to face congress in Brussels is available at: <https://iah2021belgium.org/>

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## VISUAL KARSYS ONLINE COURSE

The Visual Karsys is a webtool to improve the understanding of groundwater flow. The next online course will take place in October 20-21, from 1pm to 4 pm (GMT).

The course is designed for **geologists** and **hydrogeologists** (engineers, academic, students) working in complex hydrogeological environments for applied issues (groundwater resources, natural hazards, geothermy, construction, etc.). For registration or courses write to: [info@visualkarsys.com](mailto:info@visualkarsys.com). Further information can be found at: [visualkarsys.com](http://visualkarsys.com).

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## EUROKARST 2022 IN MALAGA, SPAIN

## **Deadline for abstracts - October 15**

The Eurokarst 2022 conference in Malaga, Spain, (22-24 June 2022) has released a new circular with details about the event. Information on registration, program, visits and excursions, etc, are provided.

Deadline for submission of abstracts is October 15, 2021. This conference will host the HYDROKARST training course, a meeting of the KARMA project (a Karst Commission project), besides the official annual meeting of the Karst Commission.

The new circular can be accessed at: <https://bit.ly/3kfsWmY>

# eurokarst 2022

MÁLAGA  
22 - 24 June

The European Conference on Karst Hydrogeology  
and Carbonate Reservoirs



Mundo River springs  
Photo: Antonio Lope Morales González  
Design: José Manuel Nieto López



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