

## March 2022 KC NEWS



**Karst  
Commission**

### **Invitation: Joint IAH Karst Commission – International Union of Speleology Project- announcement from George Veni**

This is the International Year of Caves and Karst, which has the goals to advance cave and karst education, science, and management around the world. Those goals are not limited to this year and should extend far into the future. With that thought, I met recently with the three Karst Commission co-chairs to discuss ideas for a possible project between the Commission and the International Union of Speleology (UIS), which is organizing the International Year effort. Nothing has been decided by either organization and we would like your ideas.

During our meeting we agreed to suggest a project to collect information on karst groundwater contamination problems, remediation efforts, and regulations from around the world. The information could be used to better identify research needs, improve remediation methods, and educate decisionmakers that protection of karst aquifers needs extra measures above those used for porous media and other aquifers. If this idea is agreeable to the Karst Commission and the UIS, a meeting could be held at the International Congress of Speleology in France in July

(<https://uis2021.speleos.fr/>) to discuss and plan details. Meeting at the congress would make it possible to include many cavers (and there are many more cavers than hydrogeologists) who could share information on problems and regulations in their areas.

Please send your comments, willingness to cooperate and your own ideas, and especially messages if you will be at the International Congress and are interested in attending such a meeting, to the KC co-chairs by 10 April.

George Veni  
President, International Union of Speleology  
Executive Director, US National Cave and Karst Research Institute.

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## **IAH Karst Commission membership**

Gradual review of the IAH Karst Commission webpage took us to closer look at KC members already presented on our website, compared to the distribution list of KC News, which is based on an inherited email address lists from the previous chairmanships. Past chairs were involved in the clarification during the past few weeks. Still, in some cases, it was not possible to identify the name associated with email address, and some of the new members are not listed on our webpage. As a result, some of you will soon receive individual emails with additional questions about details connected to IAH KC membership / keeping the status of "friend of the Karst Commission". For those uncomfortable with or unsure of their KC status, please send an email to karstcommissioniah70@gmail.com.



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## **World Water Day 2022 – 'Making the invisible visible' – 22 March**

Every year, the 22nd of March is dedicated to WATER – but this year, we have a special focus on groundwater, focused on making this "invisible" hidden treasure "visible". During this annual United Nations Observance that started in 1993 to celebrate water and raise awareness of the 2 billion people currently living without access to safe water, this year the public is invited to learn more about groundwater: <https://www.worldwaterday.org/learn>. To show how groundwater affects our lives, everybody can join millions of people in conversations across the world, organised by UN-Water.

## São Paulo-Brussels Groundwater Declaration

The São Paulo-Brussels Groundwater Declaration is based on a survey on groundwater challenges and solutions for sustainable management and awareness. The analysis of the answers of hundreds of participating hydrogeologists from all over the world are the basis of the São Paulo-Brussels Groundwater Declaration. Here, a range of issues was identified, across urban and rural areas, and a range of solutions and approaches were put forward. Please, if you already haven't done before, read the Declaration and add your name in support here:

<https://brabeldeclaration.getresponsepages.com>.



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## 2022 combines two International Years: of Groundwater / of Caves and Karst

The year 2022 was announced to be dedicated to Groundwater by UN-Water at its 30th meeting in Rome, Italy in 2019. The International Year of Caves and Karst was established even sooner and for 2021, but postponed to 2022 as a consequence of COVID pandemics. You can still join the activities around, or simply enjoy the karst & caves beauties on <http://iyck2021.org>.

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## Willingness to donate: participation of young students at KC meetings

We ask mentors and advisors to provide financial assistance to students and young scientists

interested in joining Karst Commission meeting in Malaga this year. All three co-chairs already promised to donate 100 € for such a purpose, hoping that others will join soon. Criteria for eligibility and rules funding for young scientist to attend KC meetings can be found on <https://karst.iah.org/funding-for-young-scientists-to-attend-conferences>.

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## **IAH Karst Commission 2022 Geotrip vision still alive!**

The possibility of organizing Karst Commission geotrip still exists, in spite of still ongoing, although weakening COVID virus epidemic and in spite of the senseless conflict in Ukraine. The organiser of the "Man and Karst" Conference in Sicily, Rosario Ruggieri offers this possibility connected to the conference planned for 12 – 17 September 2022. The negotiations are in process, regarding the foreseeable circumstances.

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## **Upcoming KC Events**

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### **EUROKARST 2022 Malaga: 22–25 June 2022**

The EUROKARST 2022 Conference organised in Málaga, Spain (22–25 June 2022) remains the top Karst Commission event of 2022. Highlights of karst hydrogeology programme are the postponed 50th KC anniversary celebration, meeting of founding KC members, regular Karst Commission meeting and young karst researchers' competition. All on the website <http://www.eurokarst.org>. The KC members are welcomed to register for the conference and celebrate the events with us.



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## **Visual KARSYS: 16 – 17 March and 6 – 7 April 2022**

The next two 3-hour sessions of Visual KARSYS course for geologists and hydrogeologists (engineers, academic, students), working in karst environments, will provide steps and tools to attendees who will apply KARSYS by themselves on 16 – 17 March 2022, but the event is fully booked now. People interested in karst groundwater resources, natural hazards, geothermy or construction activities can visit <https://www.visualkarsys.com> to learn more – the next event is planned on 6 – 7 April 2022.

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## **EGU Assembly: 3 – 8 April 2022 (Vienna, Austria)**

Two twin karst sessions at the next regular annual General Assembly of the European Geosciences Union (EGU) in Vienna, Austria about “Field and modelling approaches for the assessment of hydrogeological and engineering problems in karst” and “Characterization, mapping and simulation of karst features” will be coordinated by Hervé Jourde, Joanna Doummar, Xiaoguang Wang, Daniel Bittner, Mario Parise, Nataša Ravbar and Isabela Serena Liso. To learn more about these sessions of ID# HS8.2.3 and ID# HS8.2, you can visit <https://meetings.copernicus.org/egu22>.

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## **Man and Karst 2022 – Custonaci, Sicily, Italy: 12 – 17 September 2022**

The International Scientific Conference "Man and Karst" is organized in Sicily in Monti di Capo San Vito (Custonaci Municipality, Province of Trapani) in the period of 12 – 17 September 2022. The conference intends to contribute to the knowledge, enhancement and safeguard of the karst landscape and caves ecosystems as a part of the International Year of Caves and Karst. IAH Karst Commission geotrip, intended to take place here, is negotiated. See more on [www.cirs-ragusa.org](http://www.cirs-ragusa.org) or contact Dr. Rosario Ruggieri PhD: [info@cirs-ragusa.org](mailto:info@cirs-ragusa.org).



## **49th IAH Congress in Wuhan, China: 18 – 22 September 2022**

The 49th International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) Congress is planned to be held on 18 – 22 September 2022, in Wuhan, China. The overall theme of the Congress is "Groundwater Sustainability and Poverty Reduction", individual sessions are planned to cover different topics of hydrogeology, including karst. Visit <https://www.iah2022.com> or watch the video <https://youtu.be/nEOgZPOf-84> to learn more.



## **18th International Congress of Speleology: 24 – 31 July 2022**

Finally, taking place in Savoie Technolac, Le Bourget du Lac, Savoie, France during 24 – 31 July 2022, the postponed 18th International Congress of Speleology is planned together with its Scientific Conference this year. Its' Symposium 5 (of 20 symposia) is dedicated to karst hydrogeology and physical chemistry – attracting all karst groundwater specialists to visit the heart of Savoy on shores of Lac du Bourget, or simply the Congress webpage <http://uis2021.speleos.fr>.



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## **New IAH Karst Commission Member**

**Dr. Issam Bou Jaoude** is the Cave and Karst Specialist at the National Cave and Karst Research Institute (NCKRI) in Carlsbad, New Mexico, USA. Going back to his education he acquired a bachelor's degree in Geology in 1996 from the American University of Beirut (AUB), Lebanon; then a master's Degree in 1999 in structural geology also from the AUB. Working in karst rich settings in the Middle East and Africa and exploring caves for several years, Issam then moved to Canada where he received in 2006 his second Masters in Hydrogeology in the Civil Engineering Department at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. His second master focused on hydrogeology in fractured rock mainly in Canada but his passion in exploring and mapping caves extended to the USA too. Then he returned to the Middle East and Africa, working, teaching, exploring caves, and studying karst. He was well involved in reevaluating the hydrogeology of Lebanon between 2012 and 2014 and improving the understanding of the karst systems of the country. In 2019 he received his PhD from the Civil Engineering Department at Queen's University, Canada. Mixing his love of adventure, with his love of karst, is a high that keeps him moving forward and resulted in a wide range of articles and books that he has published and edited throughout his continuing career. As usually, Issam Bou Jaoude will be recognized as associated member of the Karst Commission for two years, before becoming a full member afterwards.





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## New papers recommended by the Karst Commission

Treble, P. C., Baker, A., Abram, N. J., Hellstrom, J. C., Crawford, J., Gagan, M. K., ... & Paterson, D. (2022). Ubiquitous karst hydrological control on speleothem oxygen isotope variability in a global study. *Communications Earth & Environment*, 3(1), 1-10.

Pratama, A.D., Dwiputra, D.S., Nurkholis, A., Haryono, E., Cahyadi, A., Agniy, R.F., Adji, T.N. (2021). Factors Affecting Hydrochemistry of Karst Springs and their Relationship to Aquifer Development. *Environmental Processes*; DOI: 10.1007/s40710-021-00547-7

Cen, X., Xu, M., Qi, J., Zhang, Q., Shi, H. (2001). Characterization of karst conduits by tracer tests for an artificial recharge scheme. *Hydrogeology Journal* (2021) 29:2381–2396

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**Finally, we cannot ignore the suffering of people in Eastern Europe. Our hearts are given to those who are suffering in the war and hope for its short duration and the return of all refugees to their homes. We hope our Karst Commission members and friends in the area are at peace and we are willing to give them any necessary support.**



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