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**Karst
Commission**



Karst Commission at "Man and Karst 2022" Conference in Custonaci (Sicily – Italy)

Several IAH Karst Commission members, including its past and recent co-chairs attended the "Man and Karst 2022" International Scientific Conference organized by KC member Dr. Rosario Ruggieri during the period of 12 – 17 September 2022 in „Stalla della Madonna“ of Sicilian municipality Custonaci. The conference was focused not only on karstic groundwater, but included wider topics of overall knowledge, enhancement and safeguard of the karst landscape and caves ecosystems. The conference program was divided into several thematic areas such as "Karst geomorphology", "Speleology and Cave Conservation", Karst hydrogeology and water protection", "Archaeology and paleontology in karst and artificial caves" and "Vulnerability, protection and fruition of karst landscapes and caves". In addition to the warm welcome of the people of Sicily, the wonderful food and the amazing weather, the participants could feel the real touch of Mediterranean karst, as short fieldtrips followed every day of conference communications and the conference itself continued by three full days of differently focused excursions to the surroundings of Custonaci, Trapani, Zingaro, Segesta and San Vito Lo Capo. The organizers can now fully relax after days associated with the complex logistics of ensuring the movement of several dozen participants in many beautiful places in

Sicily. Thanks to Rosario for a fascinating event.

Sicilian natural thermal water outlets at Terme Segestane thoroughly inspected by Jim LaMoreaux, Chair of the IAH Commission on Mineral and Thermal Waters:



16th Symposium and Academy celebrating 125 years of the Serbian Hydrogeology

Traditional Symposium on hydrogeology, 16th in order in Serbia since 1971, was held between 28 September – 1 October, 2022 in the Zlatibor Mt. resort. On the first day, a solemn meeting in honor of the occasion of the 125 anniversary of hydrogeology in Serbia took place. During the ceremony eight national institutions and organizations was awarded for supporting hydrogeology science in its fruitful history. The symposium was attended by 120 participants. The Proceedings book contains 75 articles written by the authors from seven countries, while karst as main topic discussed in 14 of them. The Proceedings also contain 16 contributions of PhD and MS students at the University of Belgrade, mainly devoted to subject of their theses. The post-symposium excursion "Karst of Zlatibor" included visit to several springs, caves, waterfalls and surface features in that mountain located in the Eastern Dinarides. Our Commission was represented by six members from Albania, Montenegro and Serbia who attended the event with presentations and chaired some of the sessions. Thanks to Zoran Stevanović – our correspondent and past KC co-chairman for the information.

Participants of the 16th Serbian Symposium on Hydrogeology during the field trip:



49th IAH Congress in Wuhan still attainable

The 49th IAH Congress International Association of Hydrogeologists "Groundwater Sustainability and Poverty Reduction" organised in Wuhan, China, was fully online. Opening and Closing ceremonies, as well as plenary keynote lectures are still freely accessible online at <https://mudu.tv/?c=portal&a=index&id=km2ejbmy>, the individual sessions are available online to the registered delegates for 30 days after the Congress. You can visit <https://www.iah2022.com> website to learn more about the venue.



MIKAS – Most Important Karst Aquifer's Springs International Project

MIKAS, the international project aiming to establish the first complete list of the most important karstic springs at a global level (based on historic, aesthetic and scientific values), to promote them and to create a Code of Practice for them, is still searching collaborators and participants, as some invitees did not respond, while others expressed their will to join. If you feel you can contribute by knowing such karstic springs in your region, do not hesitate to contact Zoran Stevanović, "father of the project" for additional details (zstev_2000@yahoo.co.uk).

A message from Philippe Meus regarding the “Karst Commission water tracing initiative”

The ring test (proficiency test) regarding fluorescent tracers analyses has now started, including 13 laboratories worldwide. Water samples containing 3 different tracers and charcoal detectors with uranine have been sent to the participants, for the evaluation of laboratory and field instruments practices. The results will be available before the end of this year and they should provide the basis for further testing, as well as a kind of standardization of such analyses.

Other activities of the tracer group are still in discussion following some preferential topics that suggested during the group meeting at the Eurokarst 2022 in Malaga. This last meeting disclosed a high interest of the participants for fluorescent tracers techniques, their implementation in karst environment, their uncertainties, as well as some more various aspects of tracing like risks, communication with authorities, communities or other stakeholders without scientific concern.

As many potential people interested in this initiative did not attend the Malaga meeting, it is still possible to join other participants Malaga. For this reason, a new call is launched to invite: 1. the persons who were present at the meeting in Malaga to confirm their involvement, or at least send their feedback; 2. those who were contacted (or not) during the initial survey to get in touch and bring their own suggestions. All correspondences can be sent to Philippe at ewts@skynet.be. The aim would be to set the bases of the activities and way of managing the group before the end of 2022.

Important note

We continue our effort to raise money for the participation of students from third world countries in conferences and geotrips. The first to take-up-the-glove (after the chairmen) is Zoran Stevanović. We encourage more members to volunteer and donate to this important goal.

Upcoming KC Events

Online GeoModelling course N15: 19 – 20 October 2022

The course dedicated to the learning of the construction of 3D geological models with the implicit approach, will be organized again, now in two sessions dated on 19 and 20 October 2022. Participants will be briefly introduced in the theoretical aspects of 3D GeoModeling and will be guided through the construction of a 3D geological model in a folded / eroded / thrust environment by using different geological data (maps, cross-sections, drill holes, galleries, faults, etc.). The course is designed to geologists and/or hydrogeologists working in complex areas, including karst. For registration and questions contact: info@visualkarsys.com and <https://www.visualkarsys.com>.

Multidisciplinary Conference Karst 2022: Importance, State of the Art, and Prospective of Utilization and Protection of Resources in Karst (Belgrade, Serbia): 21 October 2022

The Multidisciplinary Conference "Karst 2022: Importance, State of the Art, and Prospective of Utilization and Protection of Resources in Karst" will be organized in Belgrade, Serbia by the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA), Board on Karst and Speleology; Centre for Karst Hydrogeology of the Faculty of Mining and Geology; Geographical Institute „Jovan Cvijić“ of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts and the University of Belgrade - Faculty of Geography and Karst Commission of the Serbian Geological Society. The three sessions of this conference will be named after three distinguished professors and members of the Board on Karst and Speleology of SASA who passed away – Prof. Borivoje Mijatović (topic Karst Hydrogeology), Prof. Dušan Gavrilović (Karst Geomorphology and Speleology)

and Prof. Božidar Ćurčić (Biospeleology, Archaeology, Karst Protection). Organizers had already received 29 abstracts written by 56 authors from five countries. The second day will be fully devoted to the field trip to Banja Ždrela spa - Mlava karst spring, Žagubica - Krupaja karst spring and Lisine Waterfall (Veliko vrelo karst spring). <http://www.karst.edu.rs/en/> webpage will provide you with more details.

UN Water Summit on Groundwater: 7 – 8 December 2022, Paris, France

The UN Water Summit on Groundwater aims to bring attention to groundwater at the highest international level. The Summit will use the UN World Water Development Report 2022 as a baseline, and the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework as a guideline to define actions towards more responsible and sustainable use and protection of groundwater. The Summit will unify the statements from all major water-related events in 2022 into one comprehensive groundwater message for the UN Water Conference 2023. This will be a unique opportunity to present groundwater to high level policy- and decision makers globally. Visit <https://groundwater-summit.org> to be informed!

New papers recommended by the Karst Commission

Lumongsod, R.M.G., Noelynna, T.R., Dimalanta, C.B. 2022: Mapping the karstification potential of central Cebu, Philippines using GIS. *Environmental Earth Sciences* 81(18); DOI: 10.1007/s12665-022-10572-w

Serène, L., Batiot-Guilhe, C., Mazzilli, N., Emblanch, C., Babic, M., Dupont, J., Simler, R., Blanc, M., and Massonnat, G.: Transit Time index (TTi) as an adaptation of the humification index to illustrate transit time differences in karst hydrosystems: application to the karst springs of the Fontaine de Vaucluse system (southeastern France), *Hydrology and Earth System Sciences*, 26(19):5035–5049; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-26-5035-2022>, 2022.

Members who are interested in recommending a new relevant publication (their own or of their friends) are welcomed to send a link to one of the co-chairs.



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