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## **July 2024 KC News**

Chairs: Peter Malik (Europe/Africa, 9/21 -12/22); Avi Burg (Asia/Oceania, 1/23 - 4/24); Benjamin Tobin (Americas. 5/24 -8/25)

In this Issue:

- Summary of the 2024 KC Meeting
- Upcoming KC events

## **Summary of the 2024 Karst Commission**

The annual meeting of the IAH Commission on Karst Hydrogeology (KC) was held on Tuesday 11 June 2024, at 18:00 CET, at the Department of Earth Sciences of Sapienza University of Rome, during the 2024 EUROKARST Conference. The meeting was chaired by two of the three KC co-chairs who were present at the Conference – Avi Burg and Peter Malik. 33 KC members attended the meeting, while 4 others joined remotely via Zoom. The meeting was opened with sincere greetings and thanks by co-chair Avi Burg and one of the EUROKARST organizers – Marco Petitta.

During the 1.5-hour meeting, various topics were presented and discussed:

1. Co-chair Avi Burg summarised the KC activities since the last meeting, the KC involvement in special events (Geotrip to Croatia and Slovenia and the “Geological Heritage Sites program”), and the intentions of the KC for the coming year. The co-chair informed that the KC group now includes 85 permanent members, 14 associate members, 31 friends who receive the KC news but are not actively involved, 3 IAH councils, and that 40 countries are represented in the group.
2. John Gunn and MaryLynn Musgrove spoke respectively in memory of Alexander Klimchouk and Barabara Mahler, two KC members who passed away recently.
3. With the support and consent of all participants, the KC granted a certificate of honor to Jim LaMoreaux for his distinguished prolonged and useful activity in the KC. Gheorghe Ponta respectfully described Jim's long-term activity and contribution.
4. The KC congratulated Nico Goldscheider for being awarded an “Honorary Fellow” of the Geological Society of America.
5. Philippe Meus provided some information on the activities carried out by the water tracing initiative/working group on dye tracing.
6. Zoran Stevanović spoke about the progress of the Most Important Karst Springs (MIKAS) project in which many KC members are involved.
7. Neven Kresic gave some details regarding the next Geotrip that will take place in Ozarks, Missouri, USA. See below for a call for this tour and more details.
8. Zoran Stevanović, on behalf of all authors (John Gunn, Nico Goldscheider, Zoran Stevanović, and Nataša Ravbar), briefly described the content of the new book - “Karst: Environment and Management of Aquifers”, in which several KC members are involved and which is now available for free download.
9. Co-chair Avi Burg described the activities and achievements of the previous KC chairmen - Zoran Stevanović, Augusto Auler, and Zhang Cheng who served as the

KC chairs from 9/2017 to 8/2021. Gifts from the KC and EUROKARST organizers were given to two of the trio who were present at the meeting -Zoran and Augusto.

10. The KC co-chairs Peter and Avi proposed to hold the next KC annual meeting (2025) at the [INTERNATIONAL KARSTOLOGICAL SCHOOL](#) in Postojna. This proposal was accepted with the consent of all participants.

11. The co-chairs announced the need for motivated candidates for the 2025 chairmen elections. The current trio will complete their service in August 2025.

It is important to mention that today there is a rotating system between three chairmen, with each chairperson appointed for 16 months. Currently, there is a geographic representation, with one co-chair representing the Americas, one representing Europe/Africa, and the third representing Asia/Oceania. In a discussion that took place after the annual meeting in Rome in the presence of the current and previous chairmen and following the understanding that it can be challenging to find a representative for each region, it was agreed that the requirement for representation by region is desirable but not necessary.

12. A group photo was taken at the end of the meeting and is attached below.



## **2024 Young Karst Researcher Prizes**

The annual meeting of the IAH Karst Commission regularly serves as a platform for awarding young researchers and students for an excellent lecture (the Young Karst Researcher Prize - YKRP). The prize is awarded to three winners with equal prize value. During the EUROKARST2024 Conference, a committee including the two co-chairs – Peter Malik and Avi Burg, together with KC members Nataša Ravbar, Romeo Eftimi, Attila Kovács, and Augusto Euler decided to award the following three students for excellent presentations (Criteria: presentation form, excellence, innovation, originality, methods):

Juán José Durán Valsero from Spain – “A karstic cave with an exceptional geological value: Cueva de las Estegamitas (Malaga, Southern Spain)”.

Nane Weber from Germany – “Global estimation of drainage characteristics in karst landscapes”.

Augustin Gouy from France – “Simulation of the polyphasic karst system of the Barrois limestones with a discrete karst network simulation method”.

The awardees received certificates of appreciation, typical souvenirs provided by the organizers of the EUROKARST 2024 Conference, and books on karst hydrogeology donated by SpringerPublishing. The announcement of the awardees and recognition ceremony were part of the closing ceremony of EUROKARST 2024 (see photo below).



**Thanks to all those who helped make the KC annual meeting and the YKRP ceremony a success**

The Karst Commission activities were completed within the framework of the EUROKARST 2024 Conference in Rome and would not have happened without the continuous patient organizational work of the three organizers – Marco Petitta, Francesco Fiorillo, and Mario Parise. Our sincere thanks to them all!!! Special thanks to Isabella Serena Liso and Cecilia Petitta for their efficient technical help during the KC meeting and the YKRP ceremony. Many thanks also go to Springer Publishing and particularly to Qiao Shu - Publishing Editor Earth Sciences, Geography & Environment for providing YKRP awardees with excellent and valuable books.

We also sincerely thank all the speakers during the KC meeting for their willingness to share information with the group– Marco Petitta, John Gunn, MaryLynn Musgrove, Gheorghe Ponta, Philippe Meus, Zoran Stevanović and Neven Kresic.

## **Upcoming KC Events**

### **IAH World Groundwater Congress 2024**

The IAH World Groundwater Congress 2024 will take place from 8 to 13 September 2024 at the renowned Davos Congress Centre, Switzerland.

For more details about the conference see: [www.iah2024davos.org](http://www.iah2024davos.org)

Key dates: 31 May 2024 – Early bird registration closes,

The Congress team is also inviting submissions for the best hydrogeology image, which will be displayed at the congress and on the congress website. In addition, students are invited to enter the video competition - "My Thesis in 180S". Submissions to both competitions close on 30 June. For more details see:

<https://www.iah2024davos.org/#involved>

### **The 37th International Geological Congress (IGC2024)**

The 37th International Geological Congress (IGC2024) will be held in Busan, South Korea, from 25 to 31 August, 2024. A special topic on karst hydrogeology is organized at the conference (<https://igc2024korea.org/content/14403>):

· Session 4 (under parallel session T18-Groundwater and Hydrogeology) – “Eco-hydrological Process and its Effects in Karst Environment”.

Convener: Guanghui Jiang (Guangxi University),  
Abstract submission is already closed.

For more details about the conference see: <https://igc2024korea.org/>

## **The 4th European Regional Conference of IAEG (EUROENGEО 2024)**

The conference will be held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, between October 8 - 12, 2024, and will include lecture sessions and excursions.

For more details see: <https://www.euroengeo2024.com/>

## **Visual Karsys Courses**

The next dates for Visual karsys & GeoModelling courses are:

- September 25th, 2024 -Visual karsys "Advanced" - Online course,
- October 16-17th, 2024 -Visualkarsys- Online course,

The courses are aimed at geologists and hydrogeologists working on "complex" geological environments or "heterogeneous" aquifers. They provide access to the online tool [visualkarsys.com](https://visualkarsys.com) for their academic or applied projects. [visualkarsys.com](https://visualkarsys.com) has over 1,400 users and a large network of specialists worldwide.

For more details on the courses see: <https://www.visualkarsys.com/courses>

Contact for registration /questions: [info@visualkarsys.com](mailto:info@visualkarsys.com)

In addition, you are invited to have a look at the visual karsys webinar, which was recorded during the EuroGeoSurveys GMMEG Group Webinar, on October 12th, 2023:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5892kiqPA5g>

## **First announcement - Geotrip 2025**

### **General intention**

Following the discussion at the KC Annual Meeting in Rome, held in June 2024, the next Geotrip will take place in the Ozarks, Missouri, USA, tentatively scheduled to start at the beginning of June 2025, probably from Monday, 2 June.

When scheduling Geotrip 2025 we have in mind our previous field trip experience, the academia timetable at most universities, and traveling during the weekend prior to the trip. The starting point will be in Saint Louis, Missouri, at the Lambert International Airport, which is well connected to most US cities and has flights to Canada, Mexico and several times a week to Europe (Germany).

The general plan is to visit the amazing nature of the area for 6 days. The transportation will be carried out in rented vehicles. Each vehicle will include max 4 people. Traditionally, we try to make the Geotrip as cheap as possible (to allow young scientists to join) and we intend to maintain this tradition in this Geotrip as well. This means cheap accommodation and simple restaurants (but with good drinks...). Regarding accommodation, once we fix the final list of sites for the overnight stay we shall advise all attendants to make the reservation by themselves. However, this should be done as early as possible considering the well-known fact that accommodation costs increase over time.

After these 6 days, there will be an opportunity for those who want and have the time (and money) to continue the tour to natural sites and famous karst springs in Northern and Central Florida. The trip to Florida will include an overnight stop and hopefully a short visit of a place or two along the way.

3 people will organize the Geotrip on a voluntary basis: Neven Kresic will plan the sites to visit, the walking routes, and the places to stay and have meals. Zoran Stevanovic and Avi Burg, who have gained experience in organizing Geotrips, will take care of all the envelope requirements, such as calls for participation, selection of attendees, the arrangement of smaller groups for rental cars, collection of funds for incidentals and collective meals, communication between the participants, etc. Each participant will be responsible for arriving on time at the meeting point and for the costs of individual accommodations in hotels/motels.

For the Florida Springs: although this part of the trip is optional, the same level of engagement for the organization of the trip will be provided by Zoran Stevanovic and Avi Burg, while Todd Kinckaid will plan the sites to visit, the walking routes, and the places to stay and have meals.

To encourage you to join see the following pictures:



### **The first and immediate organizing step**

The first step is to know how many people want to join either trip, and the current announcement seeks to examine, still without a final commitment, the number of candidates who wish to participate. The Geotrip is open to no more than 30 people, so if one sees himself/herself as a candidate he/she should respond as soon as possible and send his/her name, whether alone or with a companion and specify if interested in

continuing to Florida as well. We are going to build an initial list with a waiting list and depending on the degree of responsiveness we will make the necessary calculations and inform the candidates of the approximate cost of the Geotrip, and the final dates. In the next step, we will ask the participants to commit because we have to reserve all the necessities (cars, group discounts for accommodation, meals).

The KC has some funds to support students to participate in the Geotrip, so those who intend to request financial support are welcome to do so. For the criteria for receiving the support, you should look at the KC website.

Those who want to be included in the list of the Geotrip participants, please send an email to Avi Burg ([burg@gsi.gov.il](mailto:burg@gsi.gov.il)) or Zoran Stevanovic ([zstev\\_2000@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:zstev_2000@yahoo.co.uk))

For those who participated in the previous Geotrip or the last two, you should know that Eleni Zaggana intends to participate!!! This means a lot of joy (as well as daily arguments about breakfast time)... Accordingly, see the Geotrip 2025 logo below!!!



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