

# MISCELLANEA

## **Carpatho-Balkans Conference on Geomorphology, Bratislava, Slovakia, september 2003**

The Carpatho-Balkan Conference on Geomorphology was held in Bratislava, Slovakia between september 8 and 14 2003. This was an anniversary moment of the Carpatho-Balkan Geomorphological Commission at its 40 years old celebration. Organizers were the Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Earth Sciences together with the Institute of Geography of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and the Association of Slovak Geomorphologists.

The scientific event was attended by more than 80 scientists from eight countries. The biggest part of them were from Poland and Slovakia, but there were also researchers and scholars from Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, Romania, Austria and Bulgaria. According to the programme, there were held 34 oral papers and 45 poster papers.

The representatives of the Carpatho-Balkan Geomorphological Commission summarizes the activity since last similar conference held in Baile Herculane, Romania (1998).

Problems discussed in papers aimed all the main topics of Carpathians geomorphology like planation surfaces in flysch areas (L. Starkel), recent geomorphic processes in the high mountain area (A. Kotarba), recent morphodynamics and natural hazards (J. Demek, D. Balteanu) etc. Palaeogeomorphology and neotectonics were also a part of the conference presentation (W. Zuchiewicz, J. Minar, M. Bil, J. Čincura, J. Kukulak, W. Margielewski, with papers focused on recent tectonics in Outer Western Carpathians, on the denudation chronology in Western Carpathians, the Alpine-Carpathian junction area, landslide chronology and paleogeomorphology, and periglacial landform evolution in the Tatras and the Moravian Flysch mountain area). Fluvial morphodynamics covered a different group of presentations concerning

channel dynamics and floodplain changes, sedimentary transfer as well as the human impact after the big floods along the Danube, Somes and Vistula rivers. Other interesting topics were related to karstic evolution, river geomorphology, control of mass movements, dune morphology and human impact (T. Kiss, G. Sipos, D. Balteanu et alii, F. Szabolcs et alii. etc.). Applied geomorphology topics covered the last plenary session with interesting problems like landsliding hazard perception in Curvature Subcarpathians rural and urban areas (I. Armas), mapping of mountain relief accessibility (B. Mihai, I. Sandric), dolomite relief in Slovenia (M. Gabrovec), pleistocene glaciation in Krkonose Mts. (M. Križek) and the High French Alps, Les Écrins Mts. (Z. Raczkowska). P. Roštinský presented an interesting approach explaining the relationship between the Bohemian Massif and the Carpathian Foredeep from the geomorphic point of view.

Poster session dealt with a large spectrum of topics from morphogenesis to morphodynamics and applied geomorphology. GIS and remote sensing were fully represented in most of these presentations. A close relationship between geomorphic research and the human society was the target of a lot of poster papers.

The plenary session of the Carpatho-Balkan Commission of Geomorphology was attended by all the countries representatives. This meeting reviewed the history and the future of the specific activities. Dr. Milos Stakoviansky from Bratislava Comenius University was elected as the new chair of the commission for the next 4 years period and dr. Jan Lacika was nominated as secretary. A statute proposal for CBCG was also discussed. The commission established also guidelines for the future researches (geomorphic risks and global environmental changes, human impact on geomorphic systems, neotec-

tonics and morphogenesis, remote sensing/GIS and geomorphology).

A two day excursion covered the west and the central Slovak Carpathians regions and different topics like: recent tectonics in Malé Karpaty, neotectonics, floodplain dynamics and human impact in Gabčíkovo area on the Danube, neotectonics and drainage reshaping on Žitava Valley, young volcanism in Štyavníckie Vrchy Mts. , neogene planation in Kremnickýe Vrchy Mts. , intramontane depression evolution in Turčianska Kotlina Depression, mining and relief evolution in Hornonitrianska Kotlina basin.

Conference was supported by Ministry of Environment of Slovak Republic and by other sponsors (including the famous J. Wiley and Sons Publishing House).

The Romanian geomorphologist's commu-

nity was represented by an important delegation, including Dr. Dan Balteanu, Dr. Iuliana Armas, Dr. Bogdan Mihai, Dr. Mircea Voiculescu and PhD students, Ionut Sandric, Mihaela Verga, Danut Tanislav, Mihaela Serban and Marcel Török, representing the Romanian Academy of Sciences and the faculties and the departments of geography from Bucharest, Timisoara and Targoviste universities. All of them had oral or poster presentations.

The conference was a real occasion for scientific exchanges between specialists. Most of the papers showed a real need to integrate geomorphological researches with social development. New technologies and methods were fully represented in almost all the papers.