

**IAG/AIG Regional Conference on Geomorphology**  
***Landslides, Floods and Global Environmental Change in Mountain Regions***  
Braşov, September 15-25, 2008

The **IAG/AIG Regional Conference on Geomorphology** having as theme ***Landslides, Floods and Global Environmental Change in Mountain Regions*** took place during September 15-25, 2008, at the Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering of the Transylvania University of Brasov. The meeting was held under the authority of the International Association of Geomorphologists, the Romanian Association of Geomorphologists (AGR) and the Carpatho-Balkan Geomorphological Commission (CBGC), was locally organized by the Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy under the leadership of Prof. Dan Bălţeanu.

The Conference included plenary lectures of some of the best world's geomorphologists, 12 scientific sessions of oral and poster papers, including special Workshops and IAG Working Group sessions, pre- and post-conference field trips and an International Summer School on Natural Hazards for young geomorphologists. In addition, special activities took place, like the meetings of the IAG Executive Committee, the Romanian Association of Geomorphologists and the Carpatho-Balkan Geomorphological Commission, IAG Training Activities and cultural visits for accompanying persons. The two special workshops as well as the International Summer School were financially supported by the Romanian Ministry for Education, Research and Innovation.

At the Opening Ceremony, speeches were held by Prof. Andrew Goudie, President of the IAG/AIG, Prof. Dan Bălţeanu, director of the Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy and Prof. Ioan Vasile Abrudan, dean of the hosting Faculty. Prof. Mauro Soldati, treasurer of the IAG, offered three grants of 500 Euros each to the winners among young geomorphologists applying for participating in this Conference.

The plenary lectures were presented by Prof. Andrew Goudie (Oxford University Centre for Environment, UK), Prof. Dan Bălţeanu (Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy, Romania), Prof. Monique Fort (Université Paris, France), Prof. Michael Crozier (Institute of Geography, School of

Earth Sciences, New Zealand), Prof. Irasema Alcántara-Ayala (UNAM, Instituto de Geografía, Mexico), Prof. Franck Audemard (FUNVISIS, Earth Sciences Dept., Venezuela), Prof. Jean-Noel Salomon (L'Université Michel de Montaigne-Bordeaux, Institut de Géographie, France), Prof. Vladimir Boynagryan (Yerevan State University, Armenia).

Over 150 specialists, mainly geomorphologists, from 30 countries, attended the international conference and 111 abstracts were accepted. The scientific sessions included six general sessions, two special Workshops (Exploratory Workshop on *Climate Change and Extreme Events in Mountain Regions* and a Workshop on *Hazard Assessment in Mining Areas using GIS*) and four IAG Working Group sessions (*Geomorphological Hazards, Geomorphology and Society, Human Impact on the Landscape, as well as the Third Joint Council Meeting of the IAG Carpatho-Balkan-Dinaric Regional Working Group and the Carpatho-Balkan Geomorphological Commission*).

The accepted abstracts were published in a special volume of 121 pages. The presentations focused upon the impact of landslides and floods on settlements, infrastructure and environment in the context of the global climatic change; hazard mitigation measures, modern methods for the evaluation of landslide failure mechanism and monitoring of the impact of landslides.

Four field trips took place offering interesting sights into the Romanian geomorphological features: a pre-conference one-day (54 participants), an afternoon (55 participants) and two post-conference field trips: *Vertical Zonation of Floods and Mass Movements in the Carpathian Mountains* (21 participants), *Large Landslides, Floods and Seismic Activity* (19 participants). The field trip guides were published together in a book of 128 pages.

At the **International Summer School for Young Geomorphologists *Environmental Hazards and Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions*** (September 20-25, 2008, Pătărlagele, Romania), ten young PhD and Master

Students from six different countries (Estonia, Malta, Slovenia, Hungary, Turkey and Romania) participated.

The main goals of the Summer School were: identification, inventory and analysis of geomorphic and hydrologic hazards and their effects on the natural and social environment in the context of global climate change.

Prof. Michael Crozier from New Zealand, invited at this edition of the Summer School, as well as Prof. Dan Bălțeanu (Romania) and Markus Holub (Austria) held courses on landslides and other geomorphic processes, on floods and engineering structures.

The School participants also enjoyed the presence and the interesting discussions with some other main figures in geomorphology, like Prof. Monique Fort (Université Paris 7 – Denis Diderot,

France), Prof. Franck Audemard (FUNVISIS, Earth Sciences Dept., Venezuela), Prof. Piotr Migon (University of Wrocław, Poland) or Prof. Denes Loczy (Institute of Geography, University of Pécs, Hungary). This was possible, as the first three days of the Summer School were spent having the same scientific programme as the field trip *Large Landslides, Floods and Seismic Activity*. The field trips focused on explaining the causes, the evolution, the specificity and the environmental effects of some landslides, mudflows, river floods and flash-floods, active faults and mud volcanoes.

The young researchers presented their works and discussed their ideas with experts in the field of landslides, applied geomorphology, natural hazards, mountain geomorphology, rock control in geomorphology, active tectonics, land evaluation and land use etc.

*Marta Cristina JURCHESCU*  
*Conference Secretary*