



International Association of Geomorphologists

Newsletter No. 21 (2/2004)

IGU and IUGS approve IAG Constitution

IGU (International Geographical Union) and IUGS (International Union of Geological Sciences) formally approved the new text of the IAG Constitution (prepared by the past IAG Executive Committee and approved by the IAG General Assembly in Tokyo 2001). The IAG Constitution is thereby officially approved and in use. Congratulations and thanks to all the IAG geomorphologists for this important achievement.

Mario PANIZZA, IAG President

GEOMORPHLIST Changes Moderators

The IAG Executive Committee met in Zaragoza, Spain on March 27th, 2004, and was delighted to acknowledge the magnificent role that Dr. William Locke had played as Moderator of the GEOMORPHLIST. His long-standing and valuable work has made possible contacts between geomorphologists from all over the world and favoured circulation of information and ideas, as well as discussions on many different topics of geomorphology.

The IAG Executive Committee would also like to welcome Dr. David Wilkins as his successor and wish him a long and profitable role in this important office.

Mario Panizza, IAG President

Editor's Note:

GEOMORPHLIST is the listserv developed by geomorphologists to serve as a forum for eliciting thought and discussion on the wide range of geomorphological topics. The listserv, which currently has 1339 subscribers, has also come to be used to post announcements to the geomorphology community regarding opportunities and events.

Dr. William Locke, Professor of Geology in the Department of Earth Sciences at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana, USA, concluded five years of excellent and much-appreciated service as GEOMORPHLIST moderator on February 27, 2004. The new moderator, Dr. David Wilkins, is Assistant Professor of Geosciences at Boise State University, Boise, Idaho, USA. Postings to the list should now be sent to GEOMORPH-L@listserv.boisestate.edu. Information about GEOMORPHLIST, including an archive of postings and instructions for joining the list, posting to the list and replying to a posted message, is available from a link on <http://earth.boisestate.edu/home/dwilkins>, and also from a link on the IAG website at <http://www.geomorph.org>.

In his letter thanking David Wilkins for taking on the important task of listserv moderator, IAG President Panizza wrote,

...Your contribution to the international geomorphological community will be of enormous importance since, at present, the GEOMORPHLIST can be regarded as the easiest instrument that enables any geomorphologists to communicate with a very large number of scientists working in our field. I truly hope that the number of subscribers of the list will increase in the near future, including more and more scientists from the less favoured countries of the World. Please consider that I will do my best, together with the Colleagues of the Executive Committee of IAG, to encourage their involvement.

IAG Symposium on Geomorphology and Environment and International Workshop on Landslides in Darjiling and Sikkim Himalayas (27th February – 6th March, 2004)

The inaugural function of the Symposium was held on February 27, 2004 at the Department of Geography, Calcutta University. The function was presided over by Prof. A. K. Banerjee, Honorable Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University. The Welcome address was delivered by Prof. S.R. Basu, Chairman of the Symposium, an Inaugural Speech was given by Prof. Dénes Lóczy, IAG Secretary, a Keynote Address was given by Prof. L. Starkel, Polish Academy of Sciences, and a Vote of thanks was given by Dr. Sunil Kumar De, Convener of the Symposium and the Workshop. The organizers recognized Prof. L. Starkel for his incredible contribution in the field of Geomorphology for 50 years. Prof. M. Soldati, IAG Executive Committee member, spoke about the IAG training activities.

Eighty-seven geomorphologists participated in the Symposium, of whom 13 were from abroad (Italy, Poland, Hungary, Croatia, Malta, Australia, Indonesia and Bangladesh) and 74 were from different parts of India. Eight technical sessions, including one poster session with posters from India and abroad, were held on different branches of geomorphology. A post-conference field trip traveled by steamer on the River Hugli upstream from Fairlie Place Ghat to Belur and downstream to Khidirpur Dock.

A total of 17 geomorphologists (including 3 organizers) participated the Workshop, of which 10 were from abroad and 7 from India. From 1–3 March, 2004 the participants visited different landslides, including Tindharia landslide, Paglajhora Landslide, Ambootia Landslide, and Ging Landslide in Darjiling; from March 4–5, 2004 they visited B2 landslide and 9th mile landslide (in Sikkim), and on March 6th, on the way back to Siliguri Tista - Rangit Confluence, they saw Likuvir Landslide (in Darjiling) and others.

Two IAG Scholarship holders participated the Symposium and the Workshop: Muh Aris Marfai (Indonesia) and Md. Saifuzzaman (Bangladesh). The Organizing Committee has given four scholarships to young Indian geomorphologists by waiving 2/3rd of their registration fees. Their names are as follows: Mr. Biswajit Bera, Ms. Paromita Majumder, Ms. Sutapa Saha, and Ms. Sumana Bhattacharya.

Sunil Kumar De, Convener, IAG Symposium on Geomorphology & Environment

IAG Grants to Young Geomorphologists

Two IAG grants for the II Postgraduate Field Course on the Geomorphology and Quaternary Geology of Tierra del Fuego (Argentina, 6-22 March, 2004) were offered to young geomorphologists from the less favoured countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America. The International Association of Geomorphologists is glad to announce that these grants were awarded to Juan M. Reynaldi (Argentina) and Luz Maria Rodriguez Davila (Venezuela).

Additional scholarships were offered by local institutions to Argentine young researchers. The Antorchas Foundation awarded grants to Juan Federico Ponce (Argentina) and Leonardo Pierrard (Argentina). The Universidad Nacional del Centro, Tandil, Province of Buenos Aires, offered a grant to Maria Valeria Capristo (Argentina).

Please visit the IAG website (<http://www.geomorph.org>) for future training activities and grant offers.

Mauro Soldati, IAG Executive Committee Member

Solidarity with Colleagues in Morocco

IAG President M. Panizza sent the following note to Prof. Abdellah Laouina, IAG National Delegate for Morocco, on behalf of the IAG:

In the name of IAG and personally, I want to express to the Moroccan colleagues all our solidarity for the victims and for the devastation that your country has suffered because of the disastrous earthquake of February 2004.

Mario Panizza, IAG President

He received the following response:

Thanks a lot for your message of solidarity with Morocco in this difficult moment. But your help and the support of the International community were so nice that they help Moroccans to forget more easily the terrible catastrophe.

Thanks again,
Abdellah

Abdellah Lauoina, IAG National Delegate for Morocco

Solidarity with Colleagues in Spain

To Prof. Enrique Serrano,
Spain National Delegate of IAG

Dear Enrique,

In such a dramatic and shocking moment for Spain, Europe and all the World, I wish to express on behalf of the International Association of Geomorphologists, our full and sincere solidarity to the Spanish Colleagues for the hideous and tragic crime carried out by terrorists and our firm execration of any form of violence. With the hope that culture and science may contribute to overcome any political and religious contraposition,

Un abrazo

Mario Panizza, IAG President

On the Loss of Prof. Nicolae Popescu

To Prof. Adrian Cioaca
University of Bucharest

Dear Prof. Cioaca,
On behalf of the International Association of Geomorphologists, I would like to share the sad feeling for the unexpected loss of Prof. Nicolae Popescu, President of the Romanian Association of Geomorphologists, renowned scientist and dear friend, and express my deepest sympathy to his colleagues and to his family.

Mario Panizza, IAG President

Editor's Note

The success of the IAG Newsletter depends upon the contributions that we receive. Please assist by sending commentaries, reviews of regional or national meetings and field trips, summaries of issues pertinent to geomorphology, and announcements of future meetings and workshops. Your contributions should be forwarded to the IAG Publications Officer:

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