

Prólogos C&G

noticias de interés • información • opinión • debate • nuevas metodologías • proyectos • programas de doctorado • nuevas tendencias • universidades • política científica • eventos • actividades • grupos de trabajo • actualidad • una sección abierta a todos aquellos interesados por las ciencias del Cuaternario y Geomorfología



Dpto. de Geografía
y Ordenación del Territorio
Universidad de Zaragoza

VI Convocatoria “Premio María Jesús Ibáñez” a la investigación sobre Geomorfología y Cuaternario en España

La Fundación “María Jesús Ibáñez” con el patrocinio de la Asociación Española para el Estudio del Cuaternario y de la Sociedad Española de Geomorfología y en colaboración con el Departamento de Geografía y Ordenación del Territorio de la Universidad de Zaragoza, hace pública la VI Convocatoria del Premio “María Jesús Ibáñez” a la investigación sobre *Geomorfología y Cuaternario de España*

Objetivo de la convocatoria

Se trata de premiar con el prestigioso nombre de la geomorfóloga María Jesús Ibáñez, los trabajos de investigación sobre Geomorfología y Cuaternario de España realizados por investigadores durante el tercer ciclo de la enseñanza universitaria.

Características de los trabajos

Son objeto del concurso aquellos trabajos conducentes a la obtención del grado de Doctor en cualquier universidad española o extranjera, cuya temática sea la Geomorfología y Cuaternario de España y que hayan sido leídas en el periodo entre 1 de octubre de 2001 y 30 de septiembre de 2004.

El premio

El premio “María Jesús Ibáñez” consiste en el reconocimiento de las sociedades científicas españolas ligadas directamente a estudio de la Geomorfología y el Cuaternario, AEQUA y SEG. El premio va acompañado de una ayuda a la investigación consistente en 1500 euros.

Para llevar a cabo la adjudicación será preciso que haya no menos de cinco candidatos; en su defecto, los trabajos presentados se sumaran a los que concurran en la siguiente convocatoria. El Jurado nombrado al efecto podrá declarar desierto el Premio y resolverá cuantas incidencias se presenten; sus decisiones serán inapelables.

Presentación de los trabajos

Los interesados deberán remitir un ejemplar de su trabajo, inédito o publicado, antes del 30 de Abril de 2005, dirigido a:

Teresa Bardají Azcárate
Departamento de Geología
Universidad de Alcalá
28871 Alcalá de Henares – Madrid

La Fundación María Jesús Ibáñez con el patrocinio de AEQUA y SEG y, en colaboración con el Dpto. de Geografía y Ordenación del Territorio de Zaragoza hace pública la VI Convocatoria del mencionado Premio

El jurado

El jurado estará compuesto por Doctores expertos en materia de Geomorfología y Cuaternario de España pertenecientes a las asociaciones patrocinadoras AEQUAy SEG y nombrados al efecto por las respectivas Juntas Directivas.

Premiados en ediciones anteriores

Premio de la I Convocatoria

El Premio de la I Convocatoria se concedió “*ex aequo*” al **Dr. D. Javier Gracia Prieto** por su Tesis Doctoral titulada: “Geomorfología de la Región de Gallocanta (Cordillera Ibérica Central)” y a la **Dra. Dña. María Victoria Lozano Tena** por su Tesis Doctoral Titulada: “Estudio geomorfológico de la Sierra de Gúdar (Provincia de Teruel)”.

La entrega del mismo tuvo lugar en Murcia, el 24 de Septiembre de 1992, con ocasión de la II Reunión Nacional de Geomorfología.

Premio de la II Convocatoria

El Premio de la II Convocatoria se concedió “*ex aequo*” al **Dr. D. Javier Hernández Molina** por su Tesis Doctoral titulada: “Dinámica sedimentaria y evolución durante el Pleistoceno Terminal-Holoceno del Margen Noroccidental del Mar de Alborán. Modelo de Estratigrafía Secuencial de muy alta resolución en plataformas continentales” y al **Dr. D. Alfredo Ollero Ojeda Tena** por su Tesis Doctoral titulada: “Los meandros libres del río Ebro (Logroño-La Zaida): Geomorfología fluvial, Ecogeografía y Riesgos”.

La entrega del mismo tuvo lugar en Logroño, el 16 de Septiembre de 1994, con ocasión de la III Reunión Nacional de Geomorfología.

Premio de la III Convocatoria

El Premio de la III Convocatoria se concedió al **Dr. Pablo G. Silva Barroso**, por su Tesis Doctoral titulada: “Evolución geodinámica de la Depresión del Guadalentín desde el Mioceno Superior hasta la actualidad: Neotectónica y Geomorfología”.

La entrega del mismo tuvo lugar en O Castro-La Coruña, el 20 de Septiembre de 1996, con ocasión de la IV Reunión Nacional de Geomorfología.

Premio de la IV Convocatoria

El Premio de la IV Convocatoria se concedió al **Dr. Javier Lario Gómez**, por su Tesis Doctoral titulada: “Último y Presente Interglaciario en el Área de Conexión Atlántico-Mediterráneo. Variaciones del nivel del mar, paleoclima y paleoambientes”.

La entrega del mismo tuvo lugar en Gerona, el 28 de Junio de 1999, con ocasión de la X Reunión Nacional del Cuaternario.

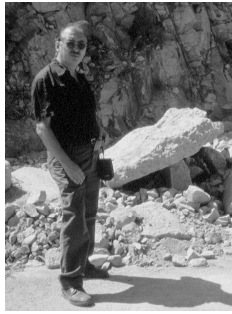
Premio de la V Convocatoria

El Premio de la V Convocatoria se concedió al **Dr. D. Lothar Schulte**, por su Tesis Doctoral titulada: “Evolución cuaternaria de la depresión de Vera y de Sorbas Oriental (SE Península Ibérica). Reconstrucción de las fluctuaciones paleoclimáticas a partir de estudios morfológicos y edafológicos”.

El Premio fue entregado durante la VII Reunión Nacional de Geomorfología celebrada en Valladolid en septiembre de 2002.

VI Convocatoria

La entrega del Premio M^a Jesús Ibáñez correspondiente a su VI Convocatoria tendrá lugar durante la VI Reunión de Cuaternario Ibérico, que se celebrará en Gibraltar los días 26-28 de Septiembre de 2005.



Francisco Ayala Carcedo

Gerardo Benito (Centro de Ciencias Medioambientales, CSIC, Madrid)
Andrés Díez Herrero (Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha, Toledo)

El pasado 29 de Noviembre de 2004 nos dejaba uno de los principales referentes españoles en el campo de los riesgos naturales. Su dedicación durante más de 30 años en el ámbito investigador, como científico del Instituto Geológico y Minero de España, y como docente de Riesgos Ambientales en la Universidad Politécnica de Madrid ha dejado una profunda huella en muchos de nosotros.

Francisco J. Ayala Carcedo ha sido un investigador de la Naturaleza, caracterizado por su talante luchador y combativo de los usos convencionales aplicados en el análisis de los riesgos naturales. Esta crítica basada en la búsqueda de la verdad le ha conducido, en los últimos años de su carrera, a diversos problemas y enfrentamientos con determinados colectivos profesionales e institucionales. En este sentido, sus prácticas profesionales se alejaban de las “recetas” analíticas de uso generalizado, y aplicaba en sus análisis algo tan simple, y a la vez tan complicado, como es el sentido común basado en la observación de la Naturaleza, y el análisis científico y detallado de los procesos. Otro elemento que ha caracterizado al Profesor Ayala-Carcedo es su interés por la trascendencia social de los riesgos naturales, siendo de especial relevancia su participación como técnico en el primer juicio del caso de la avenida del Barranco de Arás (Biescas), su crítica al Plan Hidrológico Nacional, su análisis sobre la rotura de la balsa de residuos mineros de Aznalcóllar, o sus trabajos realizados a raíz de los colapsos cársticos en la vía del AVE a su paso por Zaragoza. En su dilatada trayectoria como investigador nos ha dejado más de doscientas publicaciones, entre las que se encuentran el primer mapa geotécnico y de riesgos de una ciudad en España (Córdoba, 1978), al que se le fueron sumando el de numerosas ciudades de Andalucía (1986), Extremadura (1986), Castilla y León (1990) y Murcia (1995), entre otras. Recientemente son de destacar su trabajo “Impactos del Cambio Climático en España y Plan Hidrológico Nacional” (2001), “Ordenación del Territorio y prevención de catástrofes” (2001), y la coordinación, junto con Jorge Olcina Cantos, de la obra “Riesgos Naturales” publicada por la editorial Ariel Ciencia (2002). Este compendio de 1512 páginas, con la participación de 75 autores y referente de la literatura en castellano, se ha beneficiado, sin duda, de su conocimiento enciclopédico de los riesgos naturales.

Para aquellos que no le han conocido, Francisco J. Ayala Carcedo se ha ido dejando un basto legado investigador. Para aquellos que hemos tenido la suerte de conocerlo nos ha impregnado de su aproximación científica basada en la observación de los fenómenos y procesos, y de su compromiso social en la educación y la percepción de los riesgos naturales. Sirvan estas líneas de recuerdo y homenaje de todos sus compañeros y amigos de la Sociedad Española de Geomorfología.

La Foto que acompaña este texto corresponde a una salida de campo con posterioridad a la avenida relámpago registrada en la zona del Herradón (Ávila) en 1999 (Foto A. Díez).

El pasado 29 de Noviembre nos dejó uno de los principales referentes españoles en el campo de los riesgos naturales. Su carrera en el IGME se caracterizó por su talante combativo ante los usos convencionales aplicados al análisis de Riesgos geológicos



Francisco Jordá Cerdá (Alcoi, 1914 – Madrid, 2004)

en nombre de AEQUA

Si reparamos en el nombre con el que gustaba ser llamado Francisco Jordá, D. Paco, se pueden fácilmente percibir algunos de los adjetivos en los que coinciden todas las personas que le trataron: generoso, cordial, afable, próximo. Y si añadimos algo que exhumó su más dilecto discípulo en uno de tantos homenajes públicos a su persona, terminamos por reflejar la hondura de su personalidad: la elegancia y sutileza con que se servía de sus grandes manos en evidente contraste con su probada corpulencia. Y ello es sinónimo de sensibilidad.

Su labor arqueológica fue muy importante en yacimientos prehistóricos y protohistóricos de Valencia, Castellón, Murcia, León, Burgos, Cáceres, Salamanca y, sobre todo, Asturias.

Su ciudad natal, Alcoi, es conocida por tener desde antiguo una población intelectualmente inquieta y progresista, entre los que se encontraba D. Paco. Él, un ferviente republicano, se involucró con veintidós años en las actividades políticas municipales (Consejero de Enseñanza y Delegado de Propaganda) en un país inmerso en una guerra civil. Con veintitrés años se incorporó a las Milicias de Alcoi, para ser detenido en 1938 en el cruento y gélido “Frente de Teruel”, y tras pasar por diferentes prisiones fue sometido a un consejo de guerra con petición de pena capital, “reduciéndose” luego a cadena perpetua. No se cumplieron ninguna de las dos medidas propuestas al ser excarcelado con veintinueve años, pero, como es fácilmente presumible, en una situación vital difícilísima.

Gracias a su carácter, a la clarividencia que dan los juicios sumarísimos y seis años de cárcel en aquellas condiciones, y a sus muchos amigos y valedores, pudo ir organizando su vida profesional y personal; apoyado en sus inconclusos estudios de Arquitectura y en su Licenciatura en Filosofía y Letras (sección Historia) por la Universidad de Valencia en 1936. A partir de 1943 su existencia se organiza alrededor de tres zonas geográficas, la mitad sur de la orilla mediterránea (Valencia, Alicante, Málaga y Murcia), Asturias y Salamanca, en donde fue dejando imborrables recuerdos y varios discípulos; en torno también a cuatro temas de investigación: el Paleolítico, el arte rupestre, la cultura castreña y las religiones prehistóricas.

Entre su excarcelación (1943) y su llegada a Asturias (1952), lugar este último donde comenzará una etapa de cierto sosiego y asiento personal, desarrolla una variada actividad entre la que destaca, porque comenzará su experiencia arqueológica y prehistórica, la colaboración con el Servicio de Investigaciones Prehistóricas de la Diputación de Valencia, para luego entre otras variadas actividades dirigir el Museo Arqueológico de Cartagena, dar clases, ¡él paradójicamente!, en la Escuela del Ejército del Aire en San Javier, y en la Universidad Central de Madrid.

Incorporado a Asturias como Jefe del Servicio de Investigaciones Arqueológicas de la Diputación Provincial y, en 1953, como Director del Museo Arqueológico Provincial, sufre entretanto un insidioso zarandeo por su pasado político, y en 1954 obtiene el título de Doctor por la Universidad Central de Madrid con un clásico titulado *El Solutrense en España y sus problemas*. Por esas fechas (1952-1962) se integra en el cuerpo docente de la Universidad de Oviedo (Ayudante, Prof. Adjunto de Historia General del Arte e Historia General de la Cultura, Prof. Encargado de esa Cátedra) y aprueba la oposición de Adjunto de Enseñanzas Medias en el Instituto Femenino de Oviedo.

En 1962 obtiene la Cátedra de Arqueología, Epigrafía y Numismática de la Universidad de Salamanca, en los últimos años Cátedra de Prehistoria, dirige la prestigiosa revista *Zephyrus*, y es elegido por dos veces Decano de la Facultad de Geografía e Historia. Se jubiló en 1984, siendo nombrado Profesor Emérito de dicha Facultad (1985-1987).

Fue responsable provincial en Murcia y Salamanca de la Comisaría General y del Servicio Nacional de Excavaciones Arqueológicas, y miembro de múltiples comités, comisiones y sociedades científicas (Patronato de Altamira, Conservación de Arte Rupestre, Patronato de la Cueva de Nerja, Instituto Arqueológico Alemán, Sociéte Préhistorique de l'Ariège, Real Sociedad Española de Hª Natural, INQUA, etc.). Respecto a su vinculación con instituciones o actividades relacionadas con el Cuaternario fue Secretario de la Sección de Paleontología y Codirector -junto a N. Llopis Lladó- de la excursión por la Región Cantábrica del V Congreso Internacional del INQUA celebrado en 1957, y miembro del Grupo español de Trabajo del Cuaternario (antecesor de AEQUA). Asimismo fue distinguido con varias medallas (Ateneo de Madrid, Universidad de Salamanca, Universidad de Oviedo), un premio con su nombre y otras varias distinciones.

Su labor arqueológica fue muy importante en yacimientos prehistóricos y protohistóricos de las zonas geográficas en las que desarrolló su labor profesional: Les Malladetes, Cocina, Cova Negra, Ereta del Pedregal (Valencia); Torre del Mal Pas, La Balaguera (Castellón); Bastida de Totana (Murcia); Bricia, El Pindal, Lledías, Cueto de la Mina, Peña de Candamo, La Lloseta, Les Pedroses, El Cierro, Cova Rosa, Campiello, Baradal, Arancedo, San Chuis, Coaña, Murías de Beloño, Paraxuga (Asturias); Lancia (León); Ojo Guareña, Atapuerca (Burgos); La Pileta, Nerja (Málaga); Maltravieso, *Castra Cecilia*, Botija (Cáceres); Villamayor, Guijo de las Navas, Peña Mecas (Salamanca); además de intervenciones en Portugal, Sahara y Argelia. Y todo ello expuesto en más de doscientas publicaciones.

Si al principio hacíamos referencia a su personalidad es preciso ahora referirse a su actitud ante la docencia y la investigación: espíritu crítico, libertad de pensamiento, apertura a las novedades, inconformismo ante la desidia y la *damnatio memoria*, reconocimiento inequívoco de la interdisciplinaridad en la actividad arqueológica, y un extraordinario respeto por la actividad docente y discente; pero siempre prestando especial atención a la gastronomía de cada lugar, no sólo para poder disfrutar de una buena comida sino de una intensa y entrañable conversación.



International Association of Geomorphologists

Newsletter No. 21 (3/2004)

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New Journal: *Landslides*

Landslides, a new journal, was launched in April 2004. It is associated with the International Programme on Landslides, which is coordinated by the International Consortium on Landslides (ICL). The IAG is represented on the ICL board by President Mario Panizza. The new journal is published by Springer, and the Editor-in-Chief is Kyoji Sassa of Kyoto University in Japan. There is also a large and distinguished Editorial Board and Journal Management Committee. The first issue contains nine original papers that cover a wide range of topics, and they benefit from the fact that maps, plates and diagrams are reproduced in colour. An electronic edition of the journal is available at springerlink.com.

A.S. Goudie, Oxford
IAG Vice President

The Quaternary

The IAG Executive Committee discussed the proposal to redefine the Quaternary and shared the concerns of the INQUA Executive Committee about the elimination of the word “Quaternary” from the Geological Time Scale. The IAG wrote the following statement: “The International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG) has considered the proposed revisions to the Geological Time Scale by the International Commission on Stratigraphy. The IAG regrets the proposed elimination of the Quaternary as a system. However, if this change does take place then it supports the idea that within the Neogene a Quaternary Subsystem is established with a long time-scale (i.e. the last 2.6 million years). This would remove problems with regard to the placing of the Plio-Pleistocene boundary, and would reflect the major changes in the global environment which took place at 2.6 Ma (as recorded both in loess sections and in the deep sea oxygen isotope record).”

*Mario Panizza, Modena
IAG President*

Olav Slaymaker Retirement

The international conference on “Sediment and Geochemical Budgets in Geomorphology” was held from June 27–30, 2004 at the University of British Columbia to celebrate the achievements of Olav Slaymaker on the occasion of his retirement. Mario Panizza (IAG President) sent the following message:

“On behalf of the IAG and my own, I wish to express my appreciation and thanks to Professor Olav Slaymaker for his personal commitment in his role of President of the IAG from 1997 to 2001. We all wish him many more years of research, teaching and scientific organization activity as well as a future of excellent collaboration with IAG and his colleagues and of serenity within his own family.”

José Lugo-Hubp, as IAG EC representative, made a speech and presented an IAG silver plaque.

Olav Slaymaker later sent this message to Mario Panizza:

“It is with the greatest pleasure that I thank you for your personal greetings and presentation on the occasion of my retirement. José Lugo-Hubp, who represented you at the ceremony, held on Monday, June 28, gave a splendid and much appreciated speech before presenting me with the IAG plaque. Because José and I have shared in many IAG activities, he was a most fitting choice to act as your representative on this occasion. Please extend my sincere thanks to the whole Executive Committee and best wishes for success of the forthcoming meetings in Glasgow, Firenze and Zaragoza.”

Report on the First Science Meeting of the European Science Foundation Network SEDIFLUX held in Iceland from June 18-June 21, 2004.

Forty scientists from 12 countries participated in two field excursions and two days of technical paper sessions under the theme of “Sedimentary source-to-sink fluxes in cold environments.” The event was master-minded by Dr. Achim Beylich, the coordinator of SEDIFLUX (Department of Earth Sciences, University of Uppsala; now at the Geological Survey of Norway, Trondheim); brilliantly organized in the field by Dr. Thorstein Saemundsson (Director of the Natural Science Research Centre of Northwestern Iceland, Saudarkrokur) and ably assisted by Armelle Decaulne (Clermont Ferrand) and Olga Sandberg (Goteborg). The opening day’s field trip, from Reykjavik to Saudarkrokur, illustrated active sediment sources, latest Quaternary and Holocene landscape development, the omni-presence of volcanism, the use of tephrochronology and evidences of 18th and 19th century rural ways of life. Topics covered in the technical sessions on June 19 and June 20 included sedimentary source-to-sink fluxes in cold environments, process monitoring and modelling, analysis of sediment sinks and storages, source to sink correlations, sediment budget studies, landscape ecology and international scientific network management. The final day’s field trip, from Saudarkrokur to Reykjavik, via the highland road that runs between Langjokull and

Hofsjokull, was a spectacular demonstration of the unique Icelandic landscape. The final stop was a pilgrimage to the Thingvellir National Park, the site of the establishment of the first western style parliamentary democracy.

The event was honoured by the presence of Professor and Mrs. Frank Ahnert. Special acknowledgment goes to Achim Beylich for his conscientious and sensitive leadership. The publication of many of these papers, the future Science Meetings at Clermont Ferrand, Durham and Trondheim, and the research outcomes of this exciting team of scientists are anticipated with interest. For my part, I thank the organizers for their excellent work and recommend that some formal association of this group with the International Association of Geomorphologists be pursued to mutual advantage.

Olav Slaymaker,

Emeritus Professor of Geography and Past President of IAG, Vancouver

Report on IAG Large Rivers Yangtze Fluvial Conference, 24 June -2 July 2004, Shanghai and North Sichuan, China

The second IAG Large Rivers Yangtze Fluvial Conference was organised by Zhongyuan Chen at East China Normal University (ECNU), Shanghai. It included papers on both fluvial and estuarine issues and overlapped with a conference on Monsoon Evolution and Tectonics-Climate Linkage in East Asia and its Marginal Seas during the Late Cenozoic (IGCP 476), arranged by Hongbo Zheng at Tongji Univ., Shanghai. The IAG conference was inaugurated by Professor Chen Qun, Vice President, East China Normal Univ., with brief opening addresses by Dénes Lóczy (Secretary, IAG) and Avijit Gupta (Chair, IAG Large Rivers Working Group). The first day focused on fluvial topics and included papers by Yin Hongfu (China Univ. of Geosciences, Wuhan), John Chappell (ANU), Gordon Grant (USDA Forest Service), Shi Yafeng (Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology), Steve Goodbred (Stony Brook, USA), Takashi Oguchi (Tokyo), Chen Xiqing (Changjiang Water Resources Commission), Adrian Harvey (Liverpool), Avijit Gupta (Leeds and CRISP, Singapore), Vishwas Kale (Pune), Zhongyuan Chen (ECNU), Dénes Lóczy (Pécs), Xu Chongyu (Uppsala), Lu Xixi (National University of Singapore), Gholamreza Lakshkaripour (Sistan and Baluchistan), and Shogo Murakami (National Institute for Environmental Studies, Japan).

Papers dealing with both fluvial and estuarine topics were presented on the second day and included contributions from Eric Wolanski (Australian Institute of Marine Science), Yoshiki Saito (Geological Survey of Japan), Shen Huanting (ECNU), Ding Pingxing (ECNU), Wu Chaoyu (Zhongshan), Gao Shu (Nanjing), Zong Yongqiang (Durham), Matti Kummu (Helsinki University of Technology), Yang Dayuan, (Nanjing), Yang Shuoye (Tongji), Wu Jiaxue (Tongji), and Zhang Yufen (China Univ. of Geosciences). The third and final day was the EMECS/NIES session focusing on catchment impact on estuary and coastal management. Papers were presented by the EMECS Director Nobuo Kumamoto (Hokkaigakuen), Kinga Malgorzata Kruse (International Centre for Ecology, Poland), Masataka Watanabe (National Institute for Environment Studies, Japan), Joseph Hun-Wei Lee (Hong Kong), Hi-Il Yi (Korea Ocean R&D Institute), Ying Wu (ECNU), Jiang Tong (Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology), Kaiqin Xu (National Institute for Environment Studies, Japan), Zhu Jianrong (ECNU) and Tran Duc Thanh (Haiphong Institute of Oceanology). The conference was concluded by a panel discussion on better management of estuary and coastal seas.

A number of posters were also displayed at the conference. Poster presenters were from Northern Jiaotong, National Univ. of Singapore, Ferdowsi, Rajshahi, Viet Nam National Center for Natural Science and Technology, Ocean University of China, Ocean Univ. of China, Chengdu Univ. of Technology, Southwest Normal, Lanzhou, Shanghai, Qingdao Institute of Marine Geology, CAC, Nanjing, and ECNU Poster presenters gave short oral introductions under the extremely able time-keeping of Zhongyuan Chen.

A number of participants from both the ECNU and Tongji conferences opted for the field trip, which began with an evening flight to Chengdu and then one to an airport high up on the Minjiang Plateau in

North Sichuan. The first day was spent driving at elevations between 3000-4000 m through a magnificent landscape of past glaciation and steep slopes marked with innumerable landslides and grazed by yaks. The group climbed up the glaciated alpine valley of Huanglong National Park with its waterfalls, flowstones, and travertine-dammed ponds of various colours from algae and bacteria. The second day was in the valleys of Jiuzhaigou Park, which is a national nature reserve. It is home to the protected pandas, golden monkeys, deer and takins, although nothing beyond a wide range of bird species and tourists was seen.

Jiuzhaigou is a Y-shaped alpine valley (2000-4300 m) in pristine condition and wonderfully maintained in spite of a very large number of visitors and several villages located inside the park. Both Jiuzhaigou and Huanglong are UNESCO World Heritage sites. The high slopes of Jiuzhaigou are forested and the valleys are drained by a series of connected lakes held behind tufa embankments, and in certain cases, separated from each other by tufa-encrusted waterfalls. The lakes usually carry characteristic vegetation development from carbonate-enriched water near the shores. The drainage runs to Jiulingjiang, one of the major Sichuan tributaries of the Changjiang (Yangtze).

After Jiuzhaigou, the road travelled up the Jiulingjiang valley, at one point crossed the Hwang He-Changjiang divide, and entered the Min valley very near its source. The 400 km long Minjiang valley was followed next day. Terraces, changing channel patterns and loess-covered steep slopes mark the upper Min. For almost its entire course, the Min is a spectacular river with continuous macroturbulence and standing waves on its surface as it flows through a relatively narrow valley, in many places enclosed by flights of terraces, with hillsides beyond crowded with mass movement tracks. On 25 August 1933, hillslopes slid into the Min valley following a 7.5 magnitude earthquake near Zhenjiangyuan, leading to widespread death and destruction and formation of a series of lakes. The present lakes cover 3.5 million km² and the maximum depth is 98 m. The Min continues in the same fashion downstream, collecting a high sediment load from its steep and narrow basin slopes.

About 7:00 pm the tour bus came to Aba where a dam is being built across the Min. It was the beginning of the rainy season, and a large landslide had blocked the road, resulting in a 3 km long line of traffic. After the bus had been waiting for 3 hours in the queue, the road was closed for the night. There were very few places to stay as the town had been partially evacuated prior to inundation, and hotel rooms were not available for everyone. Most of the party slept in the bus after spending half the night in the inner courtyard of a restaurant. Next morning, after the landslide was cleared, the bus was allowed to move to the head of the queue, thanks to the kindness of local police and engineering authorities, and much to the relief of people with tight flight schedules.

The landslide crossing was followed by a huge Sichuan hotpot lunch at a restaurant in Dujiangyan and a visit to the fascinating ancient (about 250 BCE) irrigation project on the Min, designed and executed by Li Bing and his son. The project diverted part of the water of the Min in a steady flow to irrigate the Chengdu Plain and also to control flooding and silt built-up in the Min channel. The evening flight took the party back to Shanghai where a comfortable hotel, privacy and access to running hot water were much appreciated. The final day was spent in either visiting the Yangtze estuary and the huge island of Chongming or the city of Shanghai.

It was a wonderful conference and a memorable field trip, for which the group is indebted to Zhongyuan Chen, his colleagues and their students. Two selections of conference papers will be reviewed and published. Fluvial papers will be in a future issue of *Geomorphology* and coastal papers in *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*. It is expected that the IAG Large Rivers Group will continue to carry out its standard mix of conferences and river trips, although perhaps landslides and a continuous run of field lunches based on boiled eggs will be avoided in the future.

Avijit Gupta
Leeds and CRISP, Singapore



International Association of Geomorphologists

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Solidarity with Colleagues of Asia, Indonesia and other countries involved in the Sumatra earthquake and Pacific Ocean tsunami

In such a dramatic and terrible disaster for your countries, I wish to express on behalf of the International Association of Geomorphologists, our full and sincere solidarity for the victims and the devastation in consequence of these disastrous earthquake and tsunami.

With all my feelings of friendship,

Mario Panizza
President, IAG

European Manifesto on Earth Heritage and Geodiversity

The IAG has joined the European Federation of Geologists, European Geoparks Network, European Society for Soil Conservation, IUGS, and IGU to support the European Manifesto on Earth Heritage and Geodiversity. The active IAG Working Group on Geomorphological Sites also fosters the recognition and protection of sites of geomorphological significance. The European Manifesto, presented here, might serve as a model to be adapted for other countries or regions.

The European Manifesto on Earth Heritage and Geodiversity

Earth Heritage for our Present and our Future: Geodiversity: the link between people, landscapes and culture forms the basis of European Society. Geological heritage: landscape, landforms, soils, rocks, minerals, fossils and water is an essential part of Europe's natural heritage. This valuable heritage and diversity has to be safeguarded for present and future generations.

Europe has Outstanding Examples of Geological Heritage and Geodiversity: Mount Etna of Italy, the Giant's Causeway of Northern Ireland, the Wadden of The Netherlands, the Dorset Coast of the United Kingdom, the maar lakes of the German Eifel, the caves of Slovenia, the Troodos Massif of Cyprus, the High Coast of Sweden, the glaciers and fjords of Norway, the Alps, and the volcanoes, icecaps and geysers of Iceland are but a few examples of Europe's rich geological heritage.

They Create Opportunities for Education, Recreation and Tourism: These landscapes and sites by themselves, or in combination with cultural, historical and ecological heritage, offer potential for sustainable tourism, education and landscape appreciation. European Geoparks are examples of the sustainable economic use of this heritage.

They Increase the Quality of Living in Cities and Rural Areas: Landscapes, landforms, patterns and sites add value to the development of cities and rural areas and help create a living space and environment of high quality.

The Task of the EU: "Safeguarding by Development, Safeguarding by Protection:" The EU should incorporate Earth Heritage in policy, planning and related procedures. Unique earth heritage sites and landscapes should be given protected status. Sustainable development and restoration (of sites) should respect and reflect natural geological patterns and processes.

The EU Strategy Offers the Opportunity to Realise These Goals!

Activities of Czech geomorphologists in the Research Centre for Earth Dynamics

The Czech Association of Geomorphologists, founded in January 1994, cooperates on several long-term projects in the Earth Sciences through activities of its members at the universities, in the institutes of the Academy of Science, and in the institutions of applied investigation in various natural science disciplines. Czech geomorphologists co-founded (1st July 2000) and participated in the Research Centre for Earth Dynamics (RCED), Czech Republic. This Centre, located at the Geodetic Observatory Pečn? in the Ond?ejovská Vrchovina Highland east of Prague, brings together specialized teams from the Research Institute of Geodesy, Topography and Cartography (Czech Geodetic Survey), the Astronomical Institute (Academy of Science of the Czech Republic), the Institute of Rock Structure and Mechanics (Academy of Science of the Czech Republic), the Department of Advanced Geodesy (Czech Technical University, Prague), and the Department of Physical Geography and Geoecology (Faculty of Science, Charles University, Prague) in the project "Experimental research of the dynamics of the Earth and its surface."

Geomorphological themes in the project of the RCED are: 1) research on the recent intensity and range of changes of the natural environment and especially landforms, 2) geomorphological analysis and interpretation of results of geodetic and geophysical measurements related to relief evolution in the Late Quaternary, and 3) correlation and integration of geodynamic models with knowledge of the palaeogeographical history of selected areas on a regional scale. The physical geographical aspect of these topics represents especially complex research on the natural environment in selected climatically-sensitive and tectonically-active regions of Europe, Asia and Southern America using the integration of palaeogeographical records and experimental data, mainly related to Quaternary history and recent changes of landscape.

Other main Earth Science subjects of the RCED are 1) development of mathematical methods in physical geodesy, 2) study of the Earth's gravity field using differential satellite altimetry, 3) development of the experimental/instrument basis of regional geodynamic research (in the Bohemian Massif and neighbouring areas), especially GPS permanent stations and analytic centres, 4) development of gravimetric laboratory at the Geodetic Observatory Pečn? and research on non-tidal variations of gravity, 5) monitoring of microclimatic conditions of the astronomical and geodetic observatories Ond?ejov / Pečn? and GPS troposphere monitoring, and 6) determination of the Earth's orientation parameters and realization of a global coordinate system by means of a combination of space geodesy techniques. More information is available at (<http://pecny.asu.cas.cz/cedr> and <http://prfdec.natur.cuni.cz/~kfg-gsekr/research/vcdz>).

Specialized education of young research workers as part of activities of the RCED is considered essential for the development of research in dynamic and evolutionary geomorphology. Young research workers, post-graduate (PhD.) and Mgr. students of physical geography have great interest in geomorphological and interdisciplinary themes. As a result of the incorporation of the Czech Republic into the European Union, further extension of international cooperation and other activities of the Czech Association of Geomorphologists can be expected.

Dynamic and evolutionary geomorphology are progressively developing specializations of physical geography and Earth sciences as a whole, which are focused on research of the origin and intensity of changes and the evolution of landforms. Structure and themes of research work of the RCED are fully in accordance with integration trends in Earth Science. Multidisciplinary teams have developed which focus on monitoring of recent geodynamic phenomena and interpreting, correlating, and synthesizing measurements with the aim of understanding the present-day dynamics of landform evolution and changes of the natural environment on local and regional scales.

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Special issues and books published from the Fifth International Conference on Geomorphology, Tokyo, 2001

The following publications resulted from the Fifth International Conference on Geomorphology, in 2001 in Tokyo. Readers aware of additional publications from the Tokyo meeting are encouraged to contact Takasuke Suzuki (takas@kc.chuo-u.ac.jp), the local organizer of the 5th ICG, Tokyo, 2001, and Carol Harden (charden@utk.edu), IAG Publications Officer.

1. Takasuke Suzuki, Yukinori Matsukura, Judy Ehlen and Yukiya Tanaka (eds.) (2002) Rock Control in Geomorphological Processes (9 papers): *Transactions, Japanese Geomorphological Union*, Vol. 23, no. 2, pp. 159-355. (Contact: T. Suzuki: takas@kc.chuo-u.ac.jp).
2. Toshiro Naruse and Janet S. Wright (eds.) (2002) Loess and Eolian Dust (4 papers): *Transactions, Japanese Geomorphological Union*, Vol. 23, pp. 767-831. (Contact: T. Naruse naruse@soc.hyogo-u.ac.jp).
3. Kaoru Kashima and Mohamed Tahar Benazzouz (eds.) (2003) Geomorphic Revolutions and Quaternary Environmental Changes (13 papers): *Supplementi di Geografia Fisica e Dinamica Quaternaria*, pp. 5-109, Comitato Glaciologico Italiano, Torino. (Contact: Kaoru Kashima kashima@geo.kyushu-u.ac.jp).
4. I. S. Evans, R. Dikau, E. Tokunaga, H. Ohmori and M. Hirano (eds.) (2003) Concepts and Modelling in Geomorphology: International Perspectives (13 papers): TERRAPUB, Tokyo, 254 pp. (Contact: E. Tokunaga tokusan@usagi.tamacc.chuo-u.ac.jp).
5. Margot Bose, Kazuomi Hirakawa, Norikazu Matsuoka and Tanobu Sawagaki (eds.) (2003) Glaciation and Periglacial in Asian High Mountains (13 papers): *Zeitschrift für Geomorphologie, Supplement Volume 130*, pp. 1-276. (Contact: Norikazu Matsuoka matsuoka@atm.geo.tsukuba.ac.jp).
6. Kazuko Urushibara-Yoshino and Paul Williams (eds.) (2003) Karst in a changing world (6 papers): *Zeitschrift für Geomorphologie, Supplement Volume 131*, pp. 1-112. (Contact: Kazuko Urushibara-Yoshino kazukouy@i.hosei.ac.jp).
7. Norikazu Matsuoka, Shuji Iwata and Wilfried Haeberli (eds.) (2003) Glacial and Periglacial Geomorphology (10 papers): *Geomorphology*, Vol. 52, pp. 1-164. (Contact: Norikazu Matsuoka matsuoka@atm.geo.tsukuba.ac.jp).
8. Presidential lecture at the 5th ICG: Olav Slaymaker (2002) The changing status of drainage basin geomorphology: *Transactions, Japanese Geomorphological Union*, Vol. 23, pp. 739-766. (Contact: Olav Slaymaker olav@geog.ubc.ca).
9. Arthur Conacher (ed. (2002) the Role of Geomorphology in ombatting Land Degradation (5 papers) *Australian Geographical Studies*, Vol. 40, No. 2, pp. 129-195. (Contact: Arthur Conacher (Arthur.Conacher@uwa.edu.au)).

News from Canada

The Canadian Geomorphological Research Group (organized in 1993) maintains the CGRG Bibliography of Canadian Geomorphology <http://cgrg.geog.uvic.ca/cgi-bin/search.cgi>, a searchable database dedicated to identifying publications and presentations describing the practice and application of geomorphology in Canada. It contains over 18,000 records related to the fields of aeolian, applied, coastal, fluvial, glacial, hillslope, karst, periglacial, permafrost and offshore geomorphology. The database also includes records describing Canadian Quaternary/Holocene environments and a substantial body of records related to Canadian hydrology.

The Canadian Geomorphological Research Group presented the 2004 Ross Mackay Award to Dr. Matthias Jakob, Senior Geoscientist, Bruce Geotechnical Consultants, Vancouver, for his outstanding research on landslides, debris flows and the hydroclimatic forcing of hillslope failures on the west coast of North America. The Ross Mackay award is given in recognition of a significant achievement by a young geomorphologist in Canada. The CGRG maintains a website at <http://cgrg.geog.ubc.ca>.

News from the USA

Most geomorphologists in the USA are members of one (or all) of three organizations: the Geomorphology Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers (GSG-AAG), the Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division of the Geological Society of America (QG&G-GSA), or the Hydrology section of the American Geophysical Union (AGU).

In 2004, the GSG-AAG presented its Melvin Melvin G. Marcus Distinguished Career Award to Norbert Psuty (Rutgers Univ.), and the G.K. Gilbert Award for excellence in geomorphic research to Anne Chin (Texas A&M Univ.) for her paper: The periodic nature of step-pool mountain streams, *American Journal of Science*, Vol. 302, pp. 144-167. GSG-AAG officers for 2004-2005 are Gregory Pope (chair) and Michael Slattery secretary-treasurer, chair-elect).

The QG&G-GSA presented its 2004 Distinguished Career Award jointly to Derek C. Ford (McMaster Univ.) and William B. White (Penn State); the Kirk Bryan Award for research excellence to Stephen C. Porter (Univ. of Washington) for his 2001 paper: Snowline depression in the tropics during the Last Glaciation, *Quaternary Science Reviews*, Vol. 20, p. 1067-1091; the Easterbrook Distinguished Scientist Award to Edward Keller, (Univ. California at Santa Barbara); the Farouk El-Baz Research Award for outstanding work in the field of warm desert research by earth scientists, to Ashok K. Singhvi, (Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, India); and the Gladys W. Cole Memorial Research Award (for geomorphology of semiarid and arid terrains in the United States and Mexico) to J. Elmo Rawling, III (Univ. of Wisconsin at Platteville). QG&G officers are Alan Gillespie, Chair; John Costa, first vice-chair; John Schroder, Jr., second vice-chair; Janet State, secretary, and Scott Burns, treasurer.

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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