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Gypsum Karst of Western Ukraine



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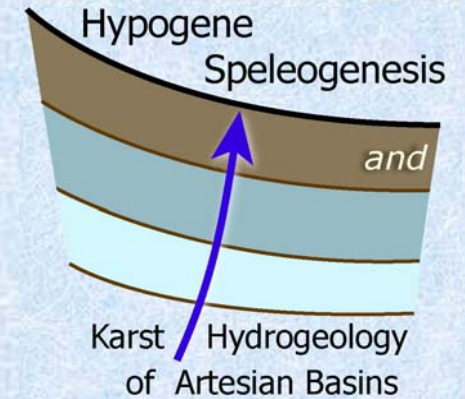
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Union International of Speleology (UIS)
Commission on Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis

International Geoscience Program 513
"Global Study of Karst Aquifers and Water Resources"
(UNESCO)

International Year of Planet Earth (UNESCO-IUGS)

International Conference



Chernivtsy, Ukraine

Field trips

Hypogene speleogenesis in gypsum and
karst evolution of stratified confined systems

May 12-17, 2009

Announcement and First Circular

Organizers:

Ukrainian Institute of Speleology and Karstology, Ukraine
"Vernadsky" Tavrichesky National University, Ukraine

"Fed'kovich" Chernivtsy National University, Ukraine
Silesian University, Poland

Institute of Geological Sciences, Ukraine
National Cave and Karst Research Institute, USA
Ukrainian Speleological Association

Background

Factors and processes of karst development in confined and semi-confined hydrogeologic structures considerably differ from those in hydrogeologically open structures. Rising groundwater results in the formation of distinct styles of karstic porosity in soluble rocks. Currently, globally broad occurrence and significance of hypogenic karst is being increasingly recognized, as well as its marked specifics in comparison to better studied epigenic (hypergenic) karst formed by groundwater coming from the overlying or immediately adjacent surfaces. Hypogenic and epigenic karst systems are regularly associated with different types, patterns and segments of flow systems, characterized by distinct hydrokinetic, chemical and thermal conditions. In the course of geological and geomorphological evolution of uplifting terrains, hypogenic caves become relict but their structures may be inherited and overprinted by epigenic speleogenesis.

Cratonic artesian basins that contain soluble rocks present the most common settings of hypogenic speleogenesis. Other common settings are upwelling hydrothermal systems in tectonically disturbed regions. Studying karst hydrogeology and using resources of such regions requires peculiar approaches, conceptual models and methods.

The understanding of nature and regularities of hypogenic speleogenesis is of great importance for theoretical karstology and geospeleology. It is also crucial for an adequate solving of problems of karst groundwater resources protection and use, karst sinkhole/subsidence hazard prediction and mitigation, as well as for prospecting and exploration of oil and gas resources and other economic deposits.

Goals

The goal of this conference is to advance our knowledge of hypogene speleogenesis and karst hydrogeology of artesian basins and to increase awareness of their importance and specifics among the academic and applied geoscience community.

The objectives of the Conference are:

- To share knowledge and experience by discussing a broad spectrum of topics and case studies related to hypogenic speleogenesis and karst hydrogeology of artesian basins.
- To reveal the global variety and extent of hypogenic karst systems.
- To reveal specifics and identify problems of karst hydrogeology of artesian basins as related to hypogenic speleogenesis.
- To better determine scientific and practical significance of hypogenic karst systems.
- To generate ideas for research projects.

Subject Areas

- Nature of hypogenic speleogenesis and its place in karst and cave science;
- Hypogene speleogenesis in various geological, tectonic and hydrogeological settings;
- Karst hydrogeology of artesian basins: regional and intermediary systems, groundwater resources, methods of study;
- Hydrodynamics of stratified confined systems containing soluble beds;
- Conceptual and numerical modeling of hypogene speleogenesis;
- Hydrogeochemical processes of hypogene speleogenesis, mechanisms of dissolution of carbonates and evaporites in hypogene settings;
- Speleomorphogenesis of hypogene caves;
- Formations and minerals of hypogene caves;
- Evolution of karstogenetic settings, evolutionary types of karst, landscapes of covered karst;
- Deep-seated karst features: hypogene speleogenesis or epigenic paleokarst?
- Geoenvironmental problems of artesian and covered karst regions;
- Role of hypogene speleogenesis in the formation of oil, gas and ore deposits.

Official languages

Official languages of the Conference will be English, Ukrainian and Russian.

Venue

The Conference will be held in Chernivtsy, a city in the fore-Carpathian region which will celebrate its 600-year anniversary in 2008. Scientific sessions will be held in the Fed'kovich Chernivtsy National University. Accommodations will be in the "Kiev" hotel in the center of Chernivtsy.

Field excursions

The Conference will be held in the Western Ukrainian region of gypsum karst, an internationally recognized model region of hypogenic speleogenesis. Field excursions through karst areas of Bukovina, Pridnestrovskaja Podolia and Pokutje between and after scientific sessions will offer a unique opportunity for participants to familiarize themselves with a spectrum of evolutionary types of karst presented in the region and the world's largest gypsum maze caves. Field trips will serve to illustrate scientific and practical issues of hypogenic speleogenesis, karst hydrogeology of artesian basins and engineering geology of covered karst.

Conference Proceedings

In view of the newness and importance of the theme, publication of Conference Proceedings will be an important step in consolidating the knowledge and experience in this field and will form an important reference point in karst and cave science in general. The organizers will publish the Proceedings by the beginning of the Conference. Further information and requirements for preparation of manuscripts will be distributed in the Second Circular.

Provisional program

May 12 – Arrival, registration

May 13 – Opening, plenary Sessions

May 14 – Field trip

May 15 – Oral and poster communications

May 16 and 17 – Field trips

Costs

Costs and payment options for a registration fee, accommodation and field trips will be indicated in the Second Circular.

Provisional Registration

Those interested in attending the Conference and field trips are kindly asked to return a provisional registration details to the Secretariat (institute@speleoukraine.net):

- Name
- Surname
- Affiliation
- Position
- Postal Address
- E-mail
- Telephone
- Do you wish to present a paper? Yes No
- Title
- Abstract (up to 200 words)

The Scientific Committee will select papers for the Conference based on abstracts. Publication in the Proceedings will be subject to the review of full manuscripts by the Scientific Committee members.

Important dates

Preliminary registration and abstracts due – **April 30, 2008**

Notification of acceptance, 2nd Circular – **September 30, 2008**

Manuscripts due – **November 30, 2008**

Revised, camera-ready copy of accepted manuscripts due – **February 28, 2009**