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PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES IN KARST AREAS I.C.E.C.K.A. Italy, September 15th-27th,1991

INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION Study Group: "Environmental Changes in Karst Areas"

INTERNATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL UNION "Commission for physics-chemistry and hydrology of Karst"

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## OPENING CERIMONY OF THE CONFERENCE AND PROPOSITIONS OF THE PARTICIPANTS

Padova, 16/9/91

#### Welcome of Prof Ugo Sauro, Chairman of The Study Group

As Chairman of the Study Group "Environmental Changes in Karst Areas" I feel really happy and deeply moved to be here to open the Second Conference of the Study Group "Environmental Changes in Karst Areas".

I bring here the greetings of all the Organizations which have sponsored and supported the Conference (see the list of promoters and sponsors and in particular the list of supporters of the proceedings of the Conference in this volume).

In particular the President of the Italian Geographical Society has pried me to represent him and to transmit to all the welcome of the Society in Italy and in Padova.

I have also to thank the Director of the Department of Geography and all the Colleagues and techniciens for the collaboration. In particular a warm thank to Mirco Meneghel and Aldino Bondesan for the strong support for the organization of the Conference.

I express to all You the hearty welcome by name of all the Study Group and of the Organizing Committee

The Study Group "Environmental Changes in Karst Areas" is an organization of the International Geographical Union; but this Conference, like the previous one is a Joint meeting with the Commission for physics-chemistry and hydrology of karst of the International Geographical Union. Here we have as welcome guest the President of UIS Prof. Hubert Trimmel and the Vice-President Dr. Julia James.

Between the participants are present also some members of the Karst Commission of IAH and some cooperators of the IGCP 299 about Karst

The Group "Environmental Changes in Karst Areas" exists from 3 years, in fact it was approved during the International Conference of Sydney in August 1988.

The Group represent a development of the activity and projects of a previous Study Group about the "Man's impact in Karst". We thank Prof. Ivan Gams who was chairman of this Group for his important contribution to the cooperation in karst research.

The time we are living is surprising for the many unforeseen changes in political and economical geography of the World. But also the natural and semi-natural environments are rapidly changing, and urbanization is extending more and more in wide areas.

Man is the main protagonist of these changes and bears the responsibility to transfer to the future generations an environmental heritage better for living and cultural improvement.

So it is necessary to know better the environment, to be able to promote the wisest chooses for future development.

This Conference represents an important moment of deepening by scientific contributions and discussions of problems about environments which are extended in large sectors of Earth surface, the karst environments, the environments of soluble rocks which hide inside inner spaces without light; the environments which often represent natural monuments and biotopes rich in singularities; the environments which preserve important resources as karst waters, karst minerals, building stones, etc.

Karst regions, with their characteristic aquifers and sediments, constitute peculiar natural systems able to memorize environmental changes. So the study of such systems helps to understand the interactive processes and especially the human influence on such geoecosystems.

I think that between the many objectives one of the more important is that to establish an international inventory of karst resources which could serve as the basis of a scheme for listing of threatened, rare or fragile karst areas. We could search to establish an UNESCO convention for the protection of karst areas (as "an International Register of Karst Geoecosystems - IRKG").

I emphasize that the results of research on Karst depend so much on the work and

cooperation between all the research workers on karst.

Î am sure that we will be able not only to show to the Community the interest and importance of karst research but also to provide a considerably accelerated impetus to environmental research in karst regions.

Good scientific work to all us!

#### Welcome of Prof. Marcello Zunica Director of the Department of Geography

As Director of the Department of Geography of this University and on behalf of all the Colleagues of the Department I express to all You an hearty welcome for Your stay in Padova and in our University and Department.

Prof. Sauro in his brief presentation has jet remembered and thanked the Department and myself but I think that a special thank must be expressed to Prof Sauro, Dott. Meneghel, Dott. Bondesan and all the Technicians of The Department, who have spent a great effort to prepare this Conference for the best scientific results and for an agreeable stay of all You.

I express my wish that this effort may bring to important outcomes in the field of geographical

and environmental research on karst regions.

#### Welcome from Prof. Elvidio Lupia Palmieri, Coordinator of the National Group for Physical Geography and Geomorphology

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am very pleased to Welcome, on behalf of the National Group for Physical Geography and Geomorphology, all the distinguished researchers who wanted to honour with their presence our country and the town of Padova in particular.

This Conference, which is carried out on the initiative of the International Geographical Union and the International Speleological Union, was organized with the contribution of some researchers of the National Group for physical Geography and Geomorphology, among whom in particular the Chairman Ugo Sauro, Aldino Bondesan and Mirco Meneghel. For these reasons the National Group considers itself particularly involved in this meeting which it wanted to sponsor and to which it contributes through many researchers.

Some of You Are acquainted with the activity of our Group, because they are frequently in touch with single italian researchers, some other got acquainted with our existence on the occasion of the International Conferences of Geomorphology held in Manchester, in 1985, and in Frankfurt, in 1989. This Group, which numbers at present 250 researchers from all the Italian Universities and from different public and private institutions, has intensely promoted and coordinated the scientific researches in the fields of Physical Geography and Geomorphology for many years.

The scientific meetings, like the one which has gathered us in Padova, are a great satisfaction to us, because they allow the confronting with other researchers and the enriching of our knowledge.

If these meetings are going to be held under the auspices of institutions as IGU and UIS and if they are attended by very qualified researchers, the National Group for Physical Geography and Geomorphology feels particularly honoured to help the scientific activity of the meeting themselves.

I am sure that this Conference will help in making stronger the relations already existing among us as well as in giving rise to new stimulating scientific collaborations and human contacts. As Coordinator of the National Group for physical Geography and Geomorphology I wish You a pleasant and useful stay in Padova and I give You my hearty regards.

Thank You

## Welcome from Arch. Franco Posocco, Secretary of the Department of Territory of the Veneto Region

Ladies and gentlemen's, I am engaged in the problems of land planning of the Veneto Region. Many technical problems are concerned in such task, regarding also the geology and geomorphology of the region.

In the Veneto Region there are many Karst Areas as the Dolomites and the high mountains of Venetian Prealps near to the plain which we call "altopiani"

In this area the waters which are inside the karst massifs are often in peril; we are conscious of this peril and we are working in the very difficult problem of safeguard of this patrimony.

For this raison We are very interested in the conclusions of this conference and we are politically convinced that the collaboration with the University and the geologists and scientists who are working on this subject is very important for us.

We are also convinced that the interdisciplinary: I mean the collaboration between the disciplines of different branches of sciences is very important

The planning is in fact the synthesis of many decisions and of models which comes from many different ways by the collaboration of different researchers.

This is a great challenge for saving environment who mainly in our region, because the Veneto from the economical and from the development point of view is very interesting; it has changed with a great speed; for this reason it is in peril and the pollution represents a great problem for us

I thank you all very much for your engagement in this problem, which is the karst areas destiny. Our Region is very near the Classical Karst and is characterized by a large mountain area mostly in karstifiable rocks. Here the problems and the knowledges about karst environments are not very advanced as in other places. For this reasons we thank You very much for Your scientific work and we will be very interested in the conclusions of this Conference to be helped in our decisions.

#### Proposition approved during the meeting of the Study Group (18/9/91)

Karst research requires an understanding of many disciplines including geomorphology, hydrogeology, speleology and chemistry. At present the efforts of physical Scientists with interests in these areas are dispersed over four international groups:

IAH IGCP IGU UIS

Many karst researchers are members of more than one group and some are members of all four. Each group holds regular international meetings but few people can attend more than each year. As a result there is never a time when all karst scientists can meet together and shore ideas. We propose that the leaders of the four groups should meet together and work towards closer cooperation. Such a coordinating meeting may be possible at the 3rd International Geomorphology Conference in Hamilton, Canada, which will be attended by members of all groups.

We also propose a joint meeting of all groups in 1995 or 1996. This should be the only meeting of each group that year and should have lectures from invited speakers representing each group. A possible location which should be of interest to all groups would be the Moulis-Montpellier area in the South of France (written by J.Gunn).

#### DECLARATION

## issued by participants of the International Conference on Environmental Changes in Karst Areas, Padova Italy, September 15th-28th, 1991

We, the participants of the International Conference on Environmental Changes in Karst Areas, held from September 15th through 27th, 1991, in the Department of Geography, the University of Padova, Italy, are extremely worried because of the civil war in Yugoslavia, which is also going on in some famous Dinaric Karst regions. We have learned from our own experience that the Dinaric Karst represents a unique type of World landscape. Thus it is an inspiration for every student of karst phenomena.

We admire the features of the Dinaric Karst as well as its people, and we have studied its peculiarities again and again. Therefore we cannot agree with the hostilities by the army which caused pain among the civil population, and with general violence which has not spared even historical places of this region.

We, the researchers in the Karst, are deeply concerned about the future destiny of the people, places and countries of the Dinaric Karst. It is our sincere wish that the people in these regions should live in peace and friendly neighbourhood, regardless of their nationality or religion. We also wish for a normal economic development - touristic development in particular - of these

beautiful and interesting regions, just as it used to be in the case of the famous Plitvice Lakes. Therefore, we all ask all the state governments, diplomats, international and national institutions and also individuals, all those who have the possibility, will, and strength, to contribute to the re-estabilishment of peace in the above mentioned regions.

(prepared by the Yugoslav participants and approved by the participants to the Conference,

September 19th, the evening, after the dinner)

Selected parts of a letter of Dr. Bozidar Biondic (Director, Division of Hydrogeology, Engineering Geology, and Mineral Resources, Institute of Geology, Sachsova 2, 41000 Zagreb, Yugoslavia), read by Prof. L. Tulipano during the symposium of Castellana, September the 26, 1991

Dear Colleague,

We never imagined that we would be communicating with You for any other purpose than for promoting scientific activity and friendly contact. We never thought that the political tension which appeared during the preparations on the project "Hydrogeological Aspects of Groundwater Protection in Karstic Areas" (COST Project 65) would escalate into an ..........

Scientist are generally not fond of analyzing the political situation in any country, but ......there is the great danger of an environmental catastrophe within and around the Mediterranean region. This has forced us scientists to speak out and warn the public. As scientists, we try to understand the mechanisms of natural systems and try to secure a safe environment for human life. However, the ...forces ... threaten to destroy the national pipeline that passes through the entire karst region of Croatia, the nuclear plant at Krsko, and large petroleum refineries and chemical industry complexes.

These treats could mean an environmental catastrophe of immense size, not only for Croatia and

Slovenia but also for a much wider European Area. .....

We appeal to You to use whatever influence you can in your country to STOP THE WAR IN CROATIA, for the consequences this war may reach well beyond the borders of Croatia and Yugoslavia .......we alone cannot prevent the environmental devastation of large parts of central and southern Europe.

## LIST OF THE PUBLICATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES IN KARST AREAS

PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES IN KARST AREAS. SAURO U., BONDESAN A., MENEGHEL M. (eds.), Quaderni del Dipartimento di Geografia 13, Università di Padova ISSN: 1120-9682, 1991 Padova; issued in the preliminary edition ((23 papers, 214 pp); the definitive edition will be printed by the end of 1991.

ITINERARI SPELEOLOGICI s.2, n.5, Federazione Speleologica Pugliese; LADIANA F., CAMPANELLA G., GUARNIERI G., GILIBERTO M., ONORATO R., PALMISANO M. (eds.) 179 pp. (special number issued for the International Conference on Environmental Changes in Karst Areas, Italy, 1991). Contiene 19 contributi connessi con l'escursione scientifica ed i seminari tenuti in Puglia fra il 24 ed il 28 settembre 1991.

THE PARK OF THE GYPSUM KARST NEAR BOLOGNA (Appennino Emiliano). (FORTI P., ed.) (in print);

SOME KARST AREAS IN CENTRAL APPENNINE (BURRI E. ed.) (in print).

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# TO THE MEMORY OF ROBERTO BALDONI PRESIDENT OF "CONSORZIO FRASASSI"

The President of "Consorzio Frasassi", Mr. Roberto Baldoni had an ictus on September 15, 1991 and died on September 20, 1991 just before the Frasassi session of the International Conference on Environmental Changes in Karst Areas.

The important support given to the this Conference by the "Consorzio Frasassi" through the action of its Presidents is here aknowledged. The organizers and the participants to the Conference are very grateful and they wish to express their great sorrow for the sudden death of Mr. Baldoni. They express also their sympaty to his Family and will never forget the kindness and all the qualities of Mr. Baldoni.

see the lectures presented during the symposium of Frasassi from page 289 to page 306,