

## IAH Karst Commission – Annual Report for 2015

Relevant activities of the IAH Karst Commission (KC) are reported and documented on our website: [www.iah.org/karst](http://www.iah.org/karst). This report summarizes the most important highlights:

In 2015, the Karst Commission held its official annual meeting at the “International Conference on Groundwater in Karst” which took place from June 20 to 26 in Birmingham, UK. For details please check <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/generic/kgatb/index.aspx>

KC members Pierre-Yves Jeannin (Switzerland), Andreas Hartmann (Germany) and Nico Goldscheider (Germany) were among the invited keynote lecturers of this conference. Various scientific sessions covered a broad range of current topics in karst hydrogeology.

The “Young Karst Researcher Prizes” 2015 were awarded to Amaël Poulain (Belgium), Caroline Dubois (Belgium) & Sandra Oehlmann (Germany).

Mid- and Post-Conference field trips took participants to the Carboniferous, Jurassic and Cretaceous karst aquifer systems of the UK.

The second international course and field seminar Characterization and Engineering of Karst Aquifers (CEKA) was held in Trebinje, Bosnia & Herzegovina, from June 1 to 7, 2015. The course was again sponsored by UNESCO and organized by the Centre for Karst Hydrogeology of the Department of Hydrogeology, University of Belgrade and the Geological Survey of the Republic of Srpska, Zvornik. The Course was attended by 21 participants from 8 countries, and lectured by 10 professors, including 6 KC members. Details: <http://www.karst.edu.rs>

The IAH Congress in Rome from September 13 to 18 was an important event for IAH and its Karst Commission. KC chairman Nico Goldscheider presented a keynote lecture on “Novel experimental and modeling approaches for the characterisation of karst systems”. The KC also chaired a well-attended session on Karst Hydrogeology. One of the field trips, guided by Marco Petitta, led to the major karst spring supplying Rome with drinking water.

The main international joint scientific cooperation project of the KC, the “World Karst Aquifer Mapping Project” (WOKAM) progressed well. The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) held its 3<sup>rd</sup> project meeting on October 28-29 in Karlsruhe. Draft karst aquifer maps of Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America, and Australia were presented and discussed.

The KC continued to organize three international lecture series dedicated to karst hydrogeology, two traditional lecture series and a new one: The Karlsruhe Karst Lectures included three presentations in 2015, by Tim Atkinson, Andrew Eavis, Philippe Renard, Liu Zaihua and Nils Moosdorf. The newly established Karst Lecture Series at Franklin & Marshall College included presentations by William B. White, Elisabeth White, Barbara Mahler and KC co-chair Neven Kresic. The Edward Aquifer Distinguished Lecture Series included presentations by Zoran Stevanovic and Abraham Springer.

Several joint publication projects were successfully accomplished, including a special issue on “Mediterranean Karst Hydrogeology”, edited by Francesco Fiorillo and Zoran Stevanovic, published in Environmental Earth Sciences, with contributions from many KC members.

Environmental Earth Sciences also published a special issue “Progress in Karst Research”, edited by KC member Bartolomé Andreo; it includes a peer reviewed selected contributions from 5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Karst (ISKA) in Malaga, Spain.

Another important joint publication effort is the book “Karst Aquifers – Characterization and Engineering” edited by Zoran Stevanovic, published by Springer; It is written by 22 authors, from 11 countries, among them 13 members of the KC.

Nico Goldscheider (Germany)

Neven Kresic (USA) & Jiang Guanghui (China)