

MILESTONES AND CHALLENGES IN KARSTOLOGY

Postojna, June 19th to 23rd 2017

Organised by
Karst Research Institute ZRC SAZU

FIRST CIRCULAR

Each year since 1993, International Karstological School (IKS) "Classical Karst" has been organised, covering many aspects of karst research. The basic idea of the School has been to present the state of the art in selected topics and promote discussion between participants via set of lectures, poster sessions and related field trips to the area of Slovene Classical karst.

Research in the last 25 years has contributed to new findings in many fields of research within karstology. Therefore, the 25th IKS is an opportunity to review major milestones in karstological research, stress the research advances in the last 25 years and define challenges and perspectives for the next generation.

The topics of the 25th IKS will try to include a wide range of karstological research. The sessions are described in the following text (session organisers are listed in the brackets). Within each session, invited keynote lectures and selected lectures of other participants will be held. As a number of lectures per each session is limited, other contributions will be presented as posters. The work will also include fieldwork (see preliminary programme).

SESSIONS:

Speleology (F. Gabrovšek)

The session tends to light up new techniques and results in characterisation of cave systems and cave environment, and present the recent progress and challenges in conceptual and numerical models of speleogenesis.

Karst geomorphology (A. Mihevc)

The session will be devoted to geomorphology of both the Classical karst and to variety of karst morphologies worldwide. Speakers will present the new knowledge about karst surface features as well as new methods and techniques. The session will be supported with the field trips to the best examples of the karst features.

Subterranean ecosystems (T. Pipan, J. Mulec)

Subterranean ecosystems include both air- and water-filled underground habitats that are deep or just a few meters (or even less) beneath the surface. They are characterized by the absence of light and specialized fauna with typical troglomorphic characters. Microorganisms represent with their interactions an integral part of all ecosystems and participate at all key geochemical cycles.

Karst hydrogeology (M. Petrič)

Karst aquifers have complex and original characteristics. Specific research methods are required for studying their structure and functioning. Understanding of the principles of groundwater flow and transport processes is essential for assessing capacities and planning protection of these important water resources.

Karst Record (N. Zupan Hajna)

The purpose of the session is to present the importance of karst and caves as a significant source of information about the processes and the time of sediments deposition and of the use of different investigating and dating methods that allow the determination of age and insight into various geological, geomorphological and speleological events in the past. The focus will be on the presentation of the latest research of sediments from Classic karst of Slovenia.

Development challenges on karst (M. Knez)

Planning without a thorough understanding of the environment and consequently a vision of its development is not sufficient. We build foundations for the rational planning of activities on karst based on good karstological research, as much in individual fields of karstology as in interdisciplinary studies (water, construction, tourism, ecology, protection).

Karstology (T. Slabe)

We will attempt to advance karstology with a discussion about the success of its previous development and consider the direction of its further development (comprehensive karstology, fields of karstology, regional karstology, important researches, karst preservation and presentation, karstology as an independent branch of science); the development of karstology education; the organization of karstology and its role within the society, as well as international connections and cooperation in karstological research.

Programme outline

Day	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Monday, June 19th	Sessions	Sessions Poster session	Ice breaker Mysteries of karst
Tuesday, June 20th	Sessions	Sessions Field trip	
Wednesday, June 21st	Sessions	Field trip	
Thursday, June 22nd	Whole day excursion		Gala reception
Friday, June 23rd	Whole day excursion		

Who should be interested in participating:

Senior and junior karst researchers, students, managers of karst resources and other people interested in karst phenomena.

REGISTRATION

Registration will be open on **February 6th, 2017** and closed on **April 30th, 2017**. Registration will be online only. Link to registration form, payment instructions and other information will be given on the website: <http://iks.zrc-sazu.si/en/>, starting on February 6th.

The registration fee is **175 EUR**. It includes conference materials, excursions, refreshments during coffee breaks, participation at gala reception and at all excursions.

The fee for the undergraduate students is **75 EUR**. Day pass fee is **40 EUR** (maximum 3 days; **20 EUR** for undergraduate students) and includes all materials of the School as well as all activities and receptions for that day.

The official language of the event is English and Slovene. The abstracts must be submitted in English at registration. The participant's preferred mode of presentation (i.e. poster/oral) will be considered by the organiser. Selected papers will be published in Acta Carsologica.

The Second Circular including the detailed programme of the School will be available by **May 12th, 2016**.

The School is supported by:

Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO, Scientific Research Centre SAZU, Slovenian Research Agency, Zavod Znanje, Škocjan Caves Park and Postojnska jama d.d.

Organiser:

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