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REPORT FROM THE CARPATHO-BALKAN-DINARIC CONFERENCE ON GEOMORPHOLOGY IN STARÁ LESNÁ, SLOVAKIA, JUNE 2013

On 24-28 June 2013 in a Slovak town of Stará Lesná (in the eastern part of the Vysoké Tatry Mountains), a Carpatho-Balkan-Dinaric Conference on Geomorphology was held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Carpatho-Balkan Geomorphological Commission (CBGC). The conference was organised by the following academic institutions: Carpatho-Balkan Geomorphological Commission (CBGC), Carpatho-Balkan-Dinaric Regional Working Group (CBDWG), Association of Slovak Geomorphologists, Association of Polish Geomorphologists, Institute of Geography of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (local organiser), Department of Geoenvironmental Research of the Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Geography and Spatial Management of the Jagiellonian University, Faculty of Natural Sciences as well as Department of Physical Geography and Geoecology of Comenius University in Bratislava. Dr Jan Novotný from the Institute of Geography of the Slovak Academy of Sciences was the secretary of the Organizing Committee.

The conference was officially opened by Professor Milan Lehotský – the President of the Association of Slovak Geomorphologists and Professor Zofia Rączkowska – the President of the Association of Polish Geomorphologists. The participants were welcomed by Ján Mokoš – the Mayor of Vysoké Tatry Town and Marián Šturcel – the Vice-director of the State Forests of TANAP.

In total, 82 researchers from Carpatho-Balkan-Dinaric countries took part in the conference, i.e. 21 from Hungary, Poland – 18, Romania – 18, Slovakia – 14, Czech Republic – 6, Slovenia – 3, Austria – 1 and the United Kingdom – 1. During the three-day conference, the participants presented 5 plenary lectures, 39 monographs in three thematic sessions (e.g. slope processes, fluvial geomorphology and evolution of relief) and 26 posters in two sessions. A majority of participants were the young generation of geomorphologists.

The subject-matter of the keynote lectures concerned the following issues: main patterns of mountain relief evolution (Leszek Starkel), Pleistocene cryope-

diments and cryopediplains of the Moravian-Silesian Carpathians (Jaromír Demek), water availability and land use on floodplains (Dénes Lóczy), geophysical investigation in the periglacial belt of the central area of the Făgăraș Mountains (Petru Urdea, Alexandru Onaca, Florina Ardelean, Roxana Putan) as well as the response of a mountain bedrock-alluvial river in flysch geological setting to contemporary environmental conditions (Milan Lehotský, Milan Frandofer).

The subject matter of the papers on fluvial geomorphology primarily concerned human influence on the course of fluvial processes and morphology of the Carpathian rivers. At the same time, relief evolution of river valleys was presented with reconstruction of river flows. The papers on slope processes encompassed the following issues: estimating landslide risk, dating of rock slope failures in North Romania and development of crevice-type caves in the Outer Western Carpathians. Moreover, the authors presented a dendrogeomorphological method for examining slope processes and possibilities to use GIS techniques in geomorphological studies. The posters presented a range of topics and referred to themes discussed in oral sessions.

The abstracts for all oral and poster presentations at the CBDC conference in Stará Lesná were published in the journal "Geomorphologia Slovaca et Bohemica" (the first issue of 2013).

On 25 June, the Joint Council Meeting of the Carpatho-Balkan-Dinaric Working Group (CBDRWG) associated with IAG and the Carpatho-Balkan Geomorphological Commission (CBGC) took place. It was the last meeting since a month later during the IAG congress in Paris, the CBDRWG group officially disbanded.

On 27 June, a Plenary Session of the CBGC took place during which Leszek Starkel and Miloš Stankoviansky presented a 50-year history of our Commission. Dénes Lóczy reported on the recent activities of the Commission, and emphasised the joint achievements of the Commission and the Working Group, namely publishing of two monographs by Springer Verlag. The first, entitled "Recent landform evolution of the Carpatho-Balkan-Dinaric Region", contains chapters prepared by national teams of geomorphologists from particular countries, and was edited by D. Lóczy, A. Kotarba and M. Stankoviansky. The second presents new research on the geomorphological impacts of extreme precipitation events, especially in 2010. Zofia Rączkowska, the editor-in-chief of the journal *Studia Geomorphologica Carpatho-Balcanica*, which has been issued since 1967, presented the themes included in two previous issues and encouraged the participants to submit their manuscripts for publication. Towards the end of the session, Professor Petru Urdea from Romania (West University of Timisoara, Department of Geography) was elected the new CBGC president. The next Carpatho-Balkan-Dinaric Conference on Geomorphology will be held in 2016 in a Slovenian town of Postojna.

On the second day of the conference, during the first half-day excursion to the Liptov Basin, the Slovak geomorphologists presented their studies on the contemporary dynamics of the Bela River. The destination of the second

whole-day excursion was the High Tatra Mountains (Rybi Potok Valley) and the Western Tatra Mountains (the Chochółowska Valley). The geomorphologists from the Institute of Geography and Spatial Organisation of the Polish Academy of Sciences (M. Długosz, A. Kotarba, Z. Rączkowska) and Institute of Geography and Spatial Management of the Jagiellonian University (J. Fidelus, P. Kłapyta, K. Krzemień, E. Płaczkowska) presented the results of their studies concerning Quaternary and contemporary relief evolution.

