STUDIA GEOMORPHOLOGICA CARPATHO-BALCANICA
VOL. XLII, 2008: 113–116 PL ISSN 0081-6434
LANDFORM EVOLUTION IN MOUNTAIN AREAS

ACTUALITES — KRONIKA

REPORT FROM THE CARPATHO-BALKAN-DINARIC CONFERENCE ON GEOMORPHOLOGY IN PÉCS, OCTOBER 2007

The Carpatho-Balkan-Dinaric Conference on Geomorphology was organised by the International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG), the Carpatho-Balkan Geomorphological Commission (CBGC), the Carpatho-Balcan-Dinaric Working Group (CBDRWG) of IAG and the Institute of Geography, University of Pécs, which was the local organiser. Conference was held between 24–28 October 2007 at the Faculty of Sciences, University of Pécs, the oldest one in Hungary. Dr. Janos Kovacs and Dr. Szablocs Akos Fabian were the chairperson and the secretary of the Organising Committee respectively.

The Conference started with the High Mass at the University's Church on 25 October 2007. The previous evening a welcome party was offered to participants.

Opening ceremony on 24 October included addresses by the authorities of the Faculty and the University, Prof. M. Stankoviansky — the President of the Carpatho-Balkan Geomorphological Commission and the Carpatho-Balcan-Dinaric Working Group of IAG and by Dr. D. Lóczy — Secretary General of the International Association of Geomorphologists.

The conference was attended by about 80 scientists from the Carpathian and Dinaric countries: Romania (19), Poland (8), Slovakia (7), Czech Republic (10), Hungary (14), Slovenia (4), Croatia (5), Serbia (3), Austria (1), Montenegro (1), and from Great Britain (1). During two-day long sessions and three plenary lectures 39 oral and 24 poster presentations were given.

Three plenary lectures were given at the conference. M. Stankoviansky examined erosional processes in Slovakia and the Czech Republic in relation to present-day and historical human activity. J. Demek and his co-authors (K. Kirchner, P. Mackovčin, P. Slavík) presented morphostructural units of the Czech Republic explaining their development by neotectonics activity and exogenic processes. Peculiar character of the Pleistocene glaciation in the Orjen and the Lovćen karstic high-mountain area in Montenegro and Bosnia and Hercegovina was presented by Slovenian geomorphologists (K. Natek, A. Mihevc, U. Stepišnik).

The presented papers concerned a wide range of geomorphological problems in the Carpathians and the Dinaric Mts, and were divided into the following thematic sessions: 1. Mountain geomorphology, 2. GIS application in geomorphology and karst geomorphology, 3. Structural geomorphology and neotectonics, 4. Soil erosion and weathering, 5. Fluvial geomorphology, 6. Hillslope processes.

Among the first thematic group a very interesting paper by P. Djurovic and A. Petrovic (Serbia) disscused the development of large canyons in the Dinaric Mounatins. The other papers dealt with glacial and periglacial features of the Tatra Mts. and the activity of the present-day geomorphic processes in the Šumava.

Different aspects of landslide occurrence and evolution are the subjects of studies in almost every part of the Carpatho-Balkan-Dinaric region, as was manifested by the large number of papers in

mountain geomorphology and hillslope processes sessions as well as in the poster session (e.g. Smolkova, Panek, Hradecky in the Czech Republic; Długosz in Poland; Balteanu, Micu in Romania, Zorn, Komac in Slovenia). New approaches involving the application of geophysical methods and GIS techniques were presented along with probabilistic modelling of landslide hazards.

The next session presented the application of new techniques like GIS, satellite imagery as well as air photos which were often successfully used in research of fluvial terraces, glacial cirques development and distribution, evaluation of soil erosion in forest region, denudation surfaces, landslides and others.

Structural geomorphology and neotectonics were topics of the next session, which presented the role of morphotectonics and neotectonics in the development of central Slovakia, the Tatra Mts., SE margin of the Bohemian Massif and the Western Mecsek Mts.

The papers presented during the session on soil erosion and weathering dealt mainly with aeolian processes during Quaternary, especially Holocene, in the Pannonion Basin.

Fluvial geomorphology was a subject of a two-day session and encompassed a variety of research topics. The first paper dealt with morphometric analysis of fluvial relief in the Tisa valley. Similar problems concerning morphological development of inter-dike space of the Danube river were discussed by Slovak geomorphogists. Two presentations focused on the recent changes of river channels of the Danube river (P. Pisut) and of the Maros river (G. Sipos and T. Kiss). Storage patterns of wood debris in mountain rivers in relation to channel size was described by Polish geomorphologists. The following talks dealt with human impact on the character of sedimentation in Carpathian gravel-bed rivers (J. Hradecky — the Czech Republic) and on floodplain aggradation in the Maros river (T. Kiss and co-authors — Hungary). The latter also discussed in-channel and floodplain fluvial processes during the record flood on the Tisa and the Maros rivers. An interesting attempt to define threshold value of coarse clast movement in the light of mathematical formulas was presented by P. Owczarek (Poland).

The problems presented during the hillslope sessions, besides landslides, varied from slope stability in the Getic Piedmont in Romania, through dynamics of anthropogenic relief in mining areas, debris flow occurrence in the Czech Flysch Carpathians to application of DC resistivity in the recognition of slope deposits in the Southern Carpathians. A very interesting paper by J. Minar (Slovakia) and I. S. Evans (Great Britain) examined the utility of their theory of land surface segmentation in GIS-supported geomophological mapping.

The poster session embraced all topics presented at oral sessions, even widening their range (e.g. possible ice age in the Cenozoic). Presented study results supplemented oral sessions by new areas (the Bihor Mts.) or new research approaches.

Besides the scientific programme, the 2nd joint meeting of the Councils of the CBGC and the IAG/AIG CBDRWG was held on 25 October and the CBGC Plenary Session on 26 October. During the plenary session, President M. Stankoviansky presented the report of the activity of the CBGC in the years 2003–2007. Prof. A. Kotarba, Editor in Chief of the journal Studia Geomorphologica Carpatho-Balcanica, reported the activity of the Editorial Board in this time.

Award of the CBGC Honorary Fellowship was presented to Professors Tadeusz Gerlach (Poland), Jozef Jakál and Juraj Čincura (Slovakia), Tadeáš Czudek (Czech Republic).

Leaders of the two parallel working bodies, namely the CBGC and the IAG CBDRWG, were elected during the Pécs Conference. The chair of the temporary IAG Carpatho-Balkan-Dinaric Regional Working Group (2005–2009) is now Prof. Miloš Stankoviansky (Comenius University in Bratislava). Dr. Dénes Lóczy (University of Pécs) was elected as the new President of the long-term Carpatho-Balkan Geomorphological Commission (since 1963), namely for the nearest tenure 2007–2011. The CBGC Secretary for this period will be Dr. Szabolcs Ákos Fábián (University of Pécs).

The main common task of the mentioned bodies within the next two years will be to write and publish a monograph on the *Recent landform evolution and geomorphic effect of extreme events in the Carpatho-Balkan-Dinaric region* (preliminary title).

The next Carpatho-Balkan-Dinaric Conference on Geomorphology will be held in 2011, in the Czech Republic (Ostrava).

The last two days of the Conference were offered to field trips. On the first day D. Lóczy and K. Sebe presented relief evolution of the Pécs Basin at its surroundings. Effects of human impact related to coal mining were also a subject of the trip. The second day trip led to the Danube valley, south of Budapest, where stratigraphy of Quaternary deposits and present-day modelling of channel banks by mass movement were discussed.

The Conference was exceptional due to broad participation of geomorphologists from the Dinaric countries and from different scientific centres in Romania. Unfortunately there were no colleagues from Ukraine and Bulgaria. Remarkably, the majority of the participants were young scientists which offers good prospects for future contacts and joint research within the Carpathian arc.

Zofia Rączkowska (Kraków)

REPORT OF THE GEOMORPHOLOGICAL CONFRENCE OF THE CZECH ASSOCIATION OF GEOMORPHOLOGISTS IN ŠLAPANICE

The Czech Association of Geomorphologists has been organizing a "State of the Geomorphological Research" conference for the last five years. With an increasing number of participants from neighboring countries, the conference which started as meeting of Czech geomorphologists has now become an international event. The last conference in 2008 took place in Šlapanice near Brno. It was organized in cooperation with the Institute of Geonics (Czech Academy of Science, Branch Brno), Department of Science (Masaryk University in Brno) and the Silva Tarouca Research Institute for Landscape and Ornamental Gardening (Brno). Karel Kirchner (Czech Association of Geomorphologists) and Zdenek Macka (Masaryk University) were chief organizers.

The conference was attended by about 85 scientists from Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland and Austria. During a two-day conference 65 oral and 20 poster presentations were given. The Plenary Meeting of the Czech Association of Geomorphologists took place during the conference.

Opening ceremony was started on 3rd June in the afternoon by P. Klan (Vice-Dean of Faculty of Science, Masaryk University), P. Dobrovolny (Director of Geography Department, Faculty of Science, Masaryk University) and K. Kirchner (President of the Czech Association of Geomorphologists).

Topics discussed at the conference concerned mainly mountain geomorphology but the scope of presented problems was wider as some presentations dealt with Polish lowlands.

Four lectures were invited to the plenary session of the conference. The first speaker, Prof. K. Klimek, presented a paper about the interaction between catchment and floodplains in the Osobłoga valley (the Sudetes foreland), at past and present-day. The second speaker, Prof. J. Minar showed the problem of structural morphology of the Western Carpathians in the context of the latest results of geological and geophysical research. Geomorphological aspects of global change of endogenic hazards and risk were displayed by Prof. J. Kalvoda. The last presentation in the plenary session, by Prof. J. Demek, dealt with the role of geomorphological research in landscape studies.

Plenary sessions were followed by two parallel sessions. The first presented various aspects of morphostructural geomorphology in the Carpathians, the Bohemian Massif as well as in the Crimean and Spanish mountains. The second session focused on different but nevertheless interesting problems such as the relation between recent relief and karst cave system in southern Slovakia, between relief, climate and timberline in the Tatras, spatial distribution and frequency of mass movements in high-mountain area of Babia Góra or the impact of tree trunk on slopes in the Bohemian Massif.

Four thematic groups were presented during the second day of the conference. The largest number of papers concentrated on fluvial processes and forms. Some of them discussed reconstruction of valley bottom relief of the Danube or Svartka rivers based on paleohydrological research, analyses of historical data or geophysical methods. Relation between slope system and river channel in the Tatras was showed. Two interesting papers concerned sedimentation processes and geomor-

phological development of dam reservoirs. Other papers focused on sedimentological response of floodplain to modern flood in the Danube, geomorphological response of river to human impact in the Western Carpathians or the role of roads in the drainage network in the Carpathian Foothills.

For several years now, an increasing number of papers presented during sessions on geoinformatics in geomorphology have been concerned with practical and theoretical aspects of application of GIS. Problems discussed in this session included the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) in the classification of landforms in lowland and mountain areas. The papers clearly showed that GIS provides a versatile tool in the analysis of landforms. The advantages of using ground penetrating radar (GPR) in geomorphological research was also highlighted.

A great number of papers in the session on slope processes and forms focused on mass movements, especially landslides, in the Carpathians in Slovakia, Poland and the Czech Republic. Slovak geomorphologists discussed the investigation of the recent evolution of the Lubiatova landslide using digital photogrametry. Application of complex methods (radiocarbon dating, palynology, dendrochronology) in the recognition of mass movement dynamics and their influence on slope evolution was presented by a team of Czech geomorphologists from Ostrava. Results of studies on the evaluation of soil erosion and geomorphological response to landuse changes in southern Slovakia were also presented.

Glacial and periglacial processes were the theme of the last session. M. Křížek with team showed interesting results of a study on glacier extent in one of the valleys in the Karkonosze Mts. Other presentations concentrated on the origin of periglacial forms and deposits found in various parts of Central Europe (Šumava, the Sudetes Mts. and Polish lowlands).

At the end of the second day a poster session was held, with 20 posters concerning a wide range of topics spanning all thematic lecture sessions.

The last day was devoted to field excursion. The main subject of the geomorphological field trip was the evolution of landforms at the southern-east flank of the Bohemian Massif between Brno, Vranov and Dyji. One of the most interesting points on the route was the Podyji National Park where the Dyje river flows through a deeply incised valley with well- developed meanders. The area is also famous for specific kind of relief, formed by intensively fissured orthogneiss giving to pseudokarst caves. The next important stop was located in the Hosteradice village where the contact of Lower Miocene deposits and rocks of the Bohemian Massif was observed, also in a complex of fascinating underground corridors formed in Miocene sands.

Conference abstracts have been published in the book of abstracts (Máčka and Kallabová 2008). Full texts will be published in Czech and Slovak journals.

The conference format, close to a workshop or a round table, allowed for a free exchange of scientific opinions and unrestricted discussion of various geomorphological problems in a friendly atmosphere. Lack of language barriers additionally favoured discussion. It was very useful and important especially for young scientists, The next international “State of the Geomorphology Research” conference will be organized in the Šumava (Czech Republic).

Special thanks are due to the Czech colleagues for the effort and care in organizing the conference.

Anna Bucała, Michał Długosz, Zofia Rączkowska (Kraków)

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