



Main passage of C7 lava Cave, Krong No Volcanic Geopark, Dak Nong Province, Vietnam - the longest lava cave of SE Asia (EuroSpeleo Project ESP 2017-10).

Photo: Takeshi Murase (assistance: René Haemers).



This Newsletter is issued by the Bureau of the European Speleological Federation (FSE)

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Editorial

The newsletter informs you of all upcoming events and includes reports of EuroSpeleo Projects supported by FSE and its Official Partners, as well as a disputed Chinese initiative to standardize cave and karst research through

the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

FSE also introduces its new Official Partner for rope sponsoring, Sacid-Korda's from Barcelona.

Best regards - The FSE Bureau

Sacid-Korda's – FSE's new Official Partner for rope sponsorship

FSE welcomes Sacid-Korda's as a new Official Partner. Korda's has been an innovative enterprise since 1945. Based in Barcelona, it manufactures ropes for professional use, canyoning as well as caving. The patented TITAN system, introduced by Korda's in 2007, provides for an extra reinforcement of the rope core and ensures that the rope

will not tear, even if the rope sheath becomes severely damaged. Korda's new SUMMUM system combines previous achievements with the TITAN system. Product descriptions, videos and photographs are available at the following website <http://www.sacidkordas.com/en>

Their website is available in Catalan, Spanish and French. FSE is grateful to our Spanish colleagues from the Confederación de Espeleología y Cañones (CEC) for effectively supporting the establishment of the new partnership. Korda's will sponsor up to 6 European Projects per year with 200 m of rope.

FSE Partners



EuroSpeleo Projects (ESP) recently accepted by FSE:

ESP 2017-12

Gouffre Berger (Deep Cleaning) (Vercors, France)

ESP 2018-01

German Youth Camp (Blaubeuren, Swabian Alb, Germany)

ESP 2018-02

Expedition Sternes (Sternes Mt., Crete, Greece)

ESP 2018-03

Colloque Karst (Chambéry, Savoie, France)

20-24 August 2018

24th International Conference on Subterranean Biology (ICBS)

University of Aveiro, Campus Universitário de Santiago,
3810-193 Aveiro, Portugal International Society for
Subterranean Biology. - <http://24icsb.web.ua.pt/>

23-26 August 2018

**EuroSpeleo Forum, including EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium,
EuroSpeleo Art Exhibition, and EuroSpeleo Imagin Film Festival**
Ebensee (Austria). - <http://www.eurospeleo.at/index.html>

27-30 September 2018

24th International Cave Bear Symposium
Chepelare, Bulgaria. - <http://icbs2018.at>

27-30 September 2018

Biospeleology and Theoretical & Applied Karstology Symposium
Afrodita Resort & Spa, Băile Herculane, Romania. -
<http://www.btak.iser.ro/index.html>

3 – 6 October 2018

4th Middle East Speleological Symposium (MESS4)

Antalya, Turkey

<http://mess4.com/>

12-18 October 2018

8th Congress of the International Show Caves Association (ISCA)

Frasassi Cave, Genga, Italy. Also open for Speleologists. -

<http://www.i-s-c-a.com/event/68-8th-isca-congress>

13 October 2018

29th BCRA Cave Science Symposium

School of Geographical Sciences, University of Bristol. -

<https://doodle.com/poll/4zib83s43fb3fc59>

26-28 October 2018

16th International Symposium on Speleotherapy

SANATORIUM EDEL s.r.o., Lázeňská 491, CZ- Zlaté Hory 793 76. -

<https://symposium-speleoterapie.webnode.cz/>

27-29 October 2018

2018 Irish SUICRO Symposium

Burren Storehouse, Lisdoonvarna. -

<http://www.caving.ie/suicro/>

1-4 November 2018

CASOLA 2018 – “Nuvole – Clouds”.

48032 Casola Valsenio, Ravenna, Italy. -

<http://www.speleopolis.org/en/casola2018>

Coming soon: 12th EuroSpeleo Forum 2018 in Ebensee, Austria - “Connecting Science”

The 12th EuroSpeleo Forum (ESF) will take place in the Town Hall in the centre of Ebensee in the Saizkammergut (Austria). The 3rd Circular with all conference info is available at

<http://www.eurospeleo.at>

Almost 500 participants from 37 countries, including Australia, Brazil, China, Iraq, Iran, Japan and USA have registered so far. 120 presentations were accepted. Over 100 field-trips will be organized.

Within the framework of the EuroSpeleo Forum, the 5th EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium, the 1st EuroSpeleo Show Cave Symposium, the 1st EuroSpeleo Art Symposium as well as a EuroSpeleo Image'In Film Festival will take place.

See you all in Ebensee!



Spéléo Secours Français: three cave rescue training courses in November 2018

SSF invites you to participate in the 3 training courses to be held between 10th and 18th Nov. 2018 in the Lozère Department, central France. The courses are: Rescue Team Leader (Rescue Technician, 10-18 Nov), Victim Assistance (10-14 Nov), and Transmission (wireless/wire broadcasting, Nicola system etc., 14-18 Nov). Languages will be French, Spanish and English. Registrations are required before September 2018. Detailed info and registration forms can be obtained from dodelinchristian@gmail.com or btourte@wanadoo.fr and from contact@eurospeleo.org.

Krong No Volcanic Geopark, southern Vietnam

At the invitation of the Dak Nong provincial authorities, an international speleological expedition targeted the lava field around Chu B'Luk volcano in the Krong No Volcanic Geopark between 21 March and 8th April 2018. The cave mapping project was mediated by the Vietnamese Geological Survey (VIGMR) and included participants from Vietnam, the Netherlands, Japan as well as Germany. The area features the most important lava caves (pyroducts) known in SE Asia. Previous Japanese expeditions firmly established C7 Cave as the longest pyroducts of SE Asia (1,067 m long). Other long caves are C3+C4 (968 m, but segmented) and C8 (791 m). Consequently, the local government strives to establish the Krong No Volcanic Geopark as a member of the UNESCO global Geopark network. The 2018 fieldwork was carried out in the framework of these efforts with the aim of mapping all the remaining lava caves known to date in the area.

This goal was successfully achieved. 32 caves were mapped with a total of almost 3 km of passages. This brings the number of caves known in the Krong No lava field to 49 and the total of passages to 10.1 km.

The 2018 expedition also made the first biospeleological investigations in the Geopark and supposedly discovered at least one new spider species (to be confirmed by specialists).

The expedition was awarded EuroSpeleo Project status by FSE (ESP 2017-10) and received substantial equipment support from Scurion (Switzerland). Report available at <http://www.eurospeleo.eu/images/stories/docs/eurospeleo-projects/2017/Cave%20Documentation%20Krong%20No%20Volcanic%20Geopark,%20Vietnam%20%20ESP%202017-10.pdf>



Entrance of C7 Cave, Krong No Volcanic Geopark (photo: Takeshi Murase).



C1 Cave, Krong No Volcanic Geopark (photo: Takeshi Murase).



CAVING EXPEDITION "SUVA PLANINA 2018"

9th-19th August 2018 / Suva planina Mountain, Serbia

This exploration project (close to the city of Niš) is organized by the Mountaineering Club "Dvig" in cooperation with the Speleological Committee of the Mountaineering Association of Serbia. Interested parties can obtain all the relevant details by sending a request to contact@eurospeleo.org.



Please send info
on all your international
events (expeditions,
congresses,
symposia etc.)
to

contact@eurospeleo.org

ISO Technical Committee on Karst established

The International Standardization Organisation (ISO) is a private association according to Swiss law (its seat is Geneva). Members are the national institutions for norms.

ISO recommendations are not legally binding but they have a strong effect on ISO member nations. They are usually transferred into national legal norms. You may remember the ISO 9000/9001 certification for standardised business quality management, where no company could afford NOT to obtain this certificate.

In February 2018 the Chinese Institute for Standardization (SAC) proposed to create within ISO a new Technical Committee (TC) for standardization in the field of karst terminology, sustainable development of karst resources, environmental protection and management of karst environment, as well as investigation and assessment (including modelling methods and mapping of karst systems). This covers a very broad field of normative issues.

China also offered to host the secretariat of the TC.

The driving force behind the proposal is the Chinese International Research Centre on Karst IRCK/IKG in Guilin (which is recognized by UNESCO).

Karst/cave-related standards are already in place. For example, the ISCA standards for show caves and the IUCN Guidelines on Cave and Karst Protection <https://www.iucn.org/content/guidelines-cave-and-karst-protection>. There are also many existing ISO rules relating to the standards of sports equipment, something which impacts on cave rescue.

The consequences and the mandate of the proposed new TC were thus not entirely clear. In consequence, UIS and ISCA recommended to their member countries to contact their national ISO delegates and vote against the proposal.

Nevertheless, the TC was established within ISO on 23 May 2018. Sixteen ISO Delegates voted in favour, 5 against (Australia, Japan, USA, Hungary and Germany), and 17 abstained.

Decisions are now being made as to whether China will become host of the TC secretariat and what type of detailed mandate this TC will have.

Members of FSE are encouraged to keep in contact with their national ISO delegation (a list can be found on the ISO website) in order to provide expertise to any TC activities in the field of karst/cave related standard setting.

UIS encouraged its members to take the following position:

- 1) The proposal for the TC mandate is much too broad. It needs to focus on a couple of clear goals that are the most urgent and important. We recommend standards for karst hydrology studies to protect karst aquifers.
- 2) The TC should not create standards for show caves. ISCA and UIS have already done this.
- 3) The TC should not create standards for cave maps. UIS has already done this.
- 4) The TC should not create standards for terminology. Cave and karst terminology is well established internationally and standards are not needed at this time.

The FSE Bureau has discussed this advice and also recommends to all its members that this UIS position be adopted.

In case you may need documentation on the new TC pls do not hesitate to send an e-mail to contact@eurospeleo.org

**The Asian Union of Speleology (AUS)
invites to the
Summer School of Speleology,
organised by the University of Gadjah
Mada (Yogyakarta, Indonesia).**

Date: 5 – 8 August 2018

**For the program, registration, and all
other details see**

<http://speleo.geo.ugm.ac.id/>

The ECPC is recruiting

The team of the European Cave Protection Commission (ECPC) is inviting every caver interested in protection issues, to join the commission to help to push forward the cave and karst protection goals of the FSE.

More and more political aspects are influencing our work. Keeping caves safe from pollution and preventing them from being destroyed is a major part of the Commission's tasks.

Protecting cavernicols and speleohems are another part of the work, as well as studying the biospeleology in caves. All this has the same goal - protection of cave and karst biotops.

More team members mean more power and more presence internationally, which again will place the ECPC at a higher level of importance internationally.

If you are keen on working in a strong and international team with the aim to protect caves and karst areas, the ECPC is the place for you.

Just send an email to protection@eurospeleo.org for any contact.

Jean-Claude Thies, ECPC President

New Book: Hypogene Karst of Texas

The Texas Speleological Survey (TSS) is pleased to announce the release of a new publication: "Hypogene Karst of Texas", edited by Kevin Stafford and George Veni. This is a freely available publication provided as a downloadable PDF from the TSS website. It consists of 9 articles by a various authors describing and characterizing the diversity of hypogene karst phenomena across Texas. More information and the publication download link is available here:

<https://www.texasspeleologicalsurvey.org/publications/Monograph-Hypogene.php>