



REPORT of the Event

in “International Year of Caves and Karst – 2021”

Multidisciplinary conference

„Karst 2022: Importance, State of the Art, and Prospective of Utilisation and Protection of Resources in Karst”

21-22. October 2022

The Multidisciplinary conference „Karst 2022: Importance, State of the Art, and Prospective of Utilisation and Protection of Resources in Karst” was dedicated to the International Year of Caves and Karst. The Organizers of the event were Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts - Board on Karst and Speleology, Centre for Karst Hydrogeology of the Faculty of Mining and Geology, Faculty of Geography University of Belgrade, Geographical Institute „Jovan Cvijić“ of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts and Karst Commission of the Serbian Geological Society. The aim of this multidisciplinary conference was to present and promote results of various disciplines of karst research on the occasion of the International Year of Caves and Karst 2021 established by the International Union of Speleology and supported by UNESCO. Complete program of the conference was published on the link: [Conference Karst 2022](#).

In total, 31 abstracts that have been prepared by 56 authors, have been submitted and published in the Proceedings of the Multidisciplinary conference “Karst 2022: Importance, State of the Art, and Prospective of Utilisation and Protection of Resources in Karst” published by Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA), Belgrade. The Proceedings can be downloaded from following [link](#).

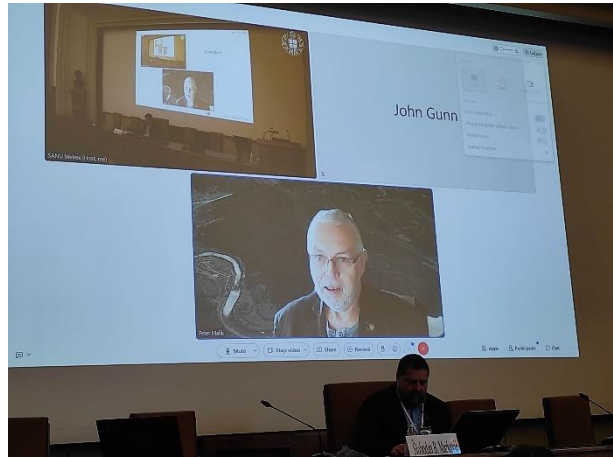
The Multidisciplinary conference took place at the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA), Kneza Mihaila St. 35, Belgrade, Serbia. Opening ceremony took place at 9:30 h (21st October) with the welcome speech of academicians: prof. Dr Zoran V. Popović, Vice President of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, prof. dr Milan Damjanović, Secretary of the Department for Mathematics, Physics and Geo-Sciences and prof. dr Slobodan B. Marković, President of Board on Karst and Speleology who wished welcome to all participants as well as productive work and pleasant time together.

The conference started with addressing from members of Honorary Committee: dr George Veni, Past-President of the International Union of Speleology UIS and Coordinator of the IYCK, dr John Gunn, Chairman of the Cave and Karst Working Group of the IUCN and dr Peter Malik, Chairman of the Karst Commission of the IAH. Afterwards, Plenary session with total of 4 lectures, where prof. dr





Slobodan B. Marković was convener, started. Zoran Stevanović gave lecture about “Utilization of Karst Aquifers in Serbia and its Neighbouring Countries”, Jelena Čalić spoke about “Before the *Karst* and After the *Karst*: Development of the Thematic Knowledge in Serbia”, Dušan Mihailović about “Recent Research on Palaeolithic Cave Sites in Serbia” and Neven Krešić presented Book Overview: “The Lands of Karst: A Visual Story”.



Opening ceremony and addressing from members of Honorary Committee

During the first session of the conference that was dedicated to the memory of prof. Borivoje Mijatović, the convener was dr Neven Krešić and six papers were presented on various topics from thematic group: Research, utilization and protection of geodiversity and water resources in karst. In the afternoon sessions a total of 13 papers were presented in two more sessions. Second session was after lunch break, dedicated to the memory of prof. Dušan Gavrilović, where the convener was prof. dr Predrag Đurović and seven presentations, on various topics from thematic group: Karst geomorphology and speleological research, have been presented. In last, third, session dedicated to the memory of prof. Božidar Čurčić the convener was prof. dr Rajko N. Dimitrijević and six papers were presented on various topics from thematic group: Biospeleology, speleoarcheology, natural heritage and conservation.







Some of the presentation during the conference

After last presentation, Prof. Slobodan B. Marković thanked to all researchers who presented results of their investigations and stated that authors of the selected abstracts and presentations will be invited to submit a full paper which, after peer review, would be published in Volume XII of the “Recueil des rapports du comité pour le karst et la spéléologie” (Collection of Reports of the Committee for Karst and Speleology of SASA).

Finally, prof. Marković commended all participants and wished them good luck in their future work and officially closed the Conference.

The success of the event can be confirmed by number of attendants. The conference has been followed by 55 participants in the Congress Hall of SASA, and several dozen viewers via Live Broadcast on SASA web site.

Full day excursion was organized on the second day of the Conference (October 22nd), and participants had possibility to visit karst of Eastern Serbia in the area of Beljanica Mt. karst massif: Ždrelo spa, Mlava karst spring, Krupaja karst spring and Veliko Vrelo karst spring. During the excursion 15 participants enjoyed nice weather and karst features of Beljanica Mt. completed with excellent common time during lunch near Lisine waterfall.





Participants of the excursion at Lisine waterfall

Reported by Dr Branislav Petrović, Research Associate

