

IAG/AIG Regional Conference on Geomorphology "Landslides, Floods and Global Environmental Change in Mountain Regions"

Braşov, September 15–26, 2008

Between the International Conferences in Zaragoza (2005) and Melbourne (2009), the International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG/AIG) managed to organize extraordinarily numerous meetings: in Goiânia (Brazil, 2006), in Kota Kinabalu (Sabah, Malaysia, 2007) and in Braşov (Romania, 2008). At the Romanian meeting, the broad international participation was accompanied by the presence of all IAG/AIG officers – from President to Webmaster. The chief organizer was Prof DAN BĂLTEANU and his colleagues from the Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy of Sciences in Bucharest. Support was provided by the Romanian National Council of Scientific Research of Higher Education (CNCSIS). The summer school for young geomorphologists (where a Hungarian youth also took part) was financed by the Romanian Ministry of Education, Research and Youth and the National Authority for Scientific Research (ANCS).



Participants of the IAG/AIG Regional Conference visiting the open air ethnographical museum in Bran

The venue was well selected next to the centre of the old town, in the building of the Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering of the Transilvania University. The participants appreciated that registration, accomodation and field trip costs were kept affordably low.

The scientific programme was fairly comprehensive for a regional conference. Oral and poster presentations included topics from the fields of landslide mapping, history, and susceptibility assessment, flood risk assessment, river geomorphology and sediment dynamics, techniques in natural hazards investigations and environmental change. Most of the plenary papers by the internationally best known experts (D. BĂLTEANU, M. FORT, M. CROZIER, I. ALCÁNTARA AYALA and F. AUDEMARD) dealt with the problems of landslides from New Zealand to Venezuela. Added to this programme, several Working Groups (Geomorphological Hazards, Geomorphology and Society, Human Impact on the Landscape and the Carpatho-Balkan-Dinaric Regional Working Group) had paper sessions and business meetings.

The cultural events with local food and music, the one-day trip to Poiana Braşov (led by B. MIHAI) and the post-conference field trips acquainting us with the problems of landslides and floods in the Făgăraş Mountains (led by V. SURDEANU and P. URDEA) and in Sighişoara and the Curvature Carpathians (led by M. MICU) were equally a success.

We are grateful for the organizers who made this conference a memorable event for all participants.

DÉNES LÓCZY