

Martin Knez

**30th INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS
(BEIJING, CHINA, 4-14 AUGUST 1996)**

On behalf of the Karst Research Institute ZRC SAZU and as the only representative of Slovenia I attended the 30th jubilee International Geological Congress in Beijing, China. In the capital of China where 12 millions of people live and which covers 16.800 square kilometers the geologists from all over the world gathered between August 4 and 14 trying to find out the actual state in geology and at the same time to issue guidelines for the third millenium. We spent ten interesting and instructive days in Beijing.

All the aspects of the International Geological Congress appear in superlatives. About 8000 men registered to the Congress and the same number of abstracts was published. Later it was shown that "only" about 6500 papers were held. The number of all the participants together with locals that attended the Congress for some days only, was unofficially more than 10.000!

The Organizing Committee numbered 77 men, Scientific Committee 86 men, Honorary Committee 26 men, other committees 131 men, altogether more than 300 men. The Honorary President accompanied by six Vice-Presidents was the president of P.R. China Li Peng; after scientifically and culturally rich opening ceremony he solemnly declared the 30th International Geological Congress open.

The Chinese geologists prepared 10 pre-Congress, 14 during-Congress short courses, 6 workshops during the Congress and 20 Congress workshops. There were 316 pre- during- and after-Congress field trips (some of them cancelled later) covering the area of entire China! Most of them were dedicated to geomorphology, mineral resources, petrology, structural geology, sedimentology, stratigraphy and tectonics.

Scientific Symposium's Programme was divided into 22 sections from stratigraphy, paleontology and sedimentology at first places to marine geology, structural geology, igneous petrology, mineralogy, Precambrian geology, geology of mineral deposits, geology of fossil fuels, mineral economics, geochemistry, geophysics, seismogeology, Quaternary geology, hydrogeology, engineering geology, environmental geology, mathematical geology and geoinformatics, comparative planetology, geological education and history of geoscience.

In addition to the above mentioned the programme included also several touristic, cultural and artistic performances giving animation to day and evening.

The so-called Special Symposia appeared within 11 sections: Origin and history of the Earth, Geosciences and human survival, Global changes and future environment, Structure of the lithosphere, Contemporary lithospheric motion, Global tectonic zones, Orogenic belts, Basin analysis, Energy and

mineral resources for the 21st Century, New technology for geosciences and Progress of international geoscience projects.

From August 4 to 9 the Organizing Committee of the 30th International Geological Congress together with some participants prepared the exhibition Geoexpo '96 at which about 150 exhibitors from China and abroad have taken place.

The 30th International Geological Congress was organized in collaboration with the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), the Geological Society of China, the Ministry of Geology and Mineral Resources of P.R. China and the relevant Chinese governmental agencies, scientific institutions and industrial organizations.

A lot of various papers were held, in particular outstanding were two papers of Prof. W. Fyfe, University of Western Ontario and the President of International Union of Geological Sciences.

Slovenia, Karst Research Institute ZRC SAZU appeared within a section Formation and Evolution of Karst and Data on Environmental Changes with a paper Karst Cave Development from a Bedding-plane Point of View (Škocjanske jame Caves, Slovenia) and by poster entitled Development of Phreatic Channels in Škocjanske jame Caves, Slovenia. In addition I took part at the meeting of IGCP UNESCO Project 379, Karst Processes and the Carbon Cycle where our Institute figures as a collaborator to a project.

As a congress of such dimensions deserves the organizers published, in addition to other items, a detailed programme with names of all the participants in a booklet of more than 300 pages, a booklet containing a list of guests and their distribution in hotels, a booklet containing the donors of financial means where are listed all that have given at least 100 yuans and also three volumes of abstracts and posters of more than 2000 pages, that were presented at ten days of Congress.

After four years geologists of all countries will gather again in Brazil.