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**THE 15th SPELEOLOGICAL SCHOOL
(LANDEK ZDROJ, POLAND, FEBRUARY 12-18,1996)**

The co-workers of the Karst Research Institute ZRC SAZU visited the jubilee 15th Speleological School in Poland. In a typical Sudetes town Landek Zdroj we passed professionally interesting week from 12 to 18 February.

The town Landek, as it is called by the natives for short, lies in a mountainous area of the western Silesia where the peaks reach the altitudes from 800 to 1200 m. The highest among them is Snieznik, 1425 m a.s.l. At its foot the most famous cave in Poland, the Bear Cave (Jaskinia Niedzwiedzia) is located. In the Snieznik area gneisses and marbles prevail and water incised *deep valleys in them. The Bear Cave developed in poorly recrystallized marbles.*

The Speleological School was organised, as all the previous, by researchers from the Geomorphology Department, University of Silesia. Headed by world famous karstologist and glaciologist Prof. M. Pulina Doc. A. Tyc took care for this week. The Scientific Protective Committee at the Bear Cave and the Provincial Found of Environmental Protection and Water Management of the Walbrych province cooperated at the organisation.

The scientific Committee was represented by distinguished professors and researchers of karst and Arctic regions: A. Jan, M. Pulina, J. Głazek, J. Jania, S. Kozłowski and A. Rożkowski of the Silesian University, of the Wrocław and Poznań Universities and National Geological Institute, Warszawa.

The organisers of the jubilee Speleological School tried to gather the highest possible number of experts related to speleology and karstology, and to glaciology from Poland and abroad. More than 50 representatives responded from Poland, Czech Republic, France, Russia, Slovakia, Ukraina and Slovenia, or in other words, from Bordeaux in the west to Irkutsk in the east.

As usually, also this meeting included invited papers, papers of participants and exhibition of posters. During the meeting an excursion to the Polish finest cave, Bear Cave, was organised.

Program of talks covered various topics, from applicative to entirely theoretical papers, from researches of lithosphere over GIS to various aspects of speleogenesis, datation of flowstone age by the TL, ESR, ¹⁴C, U/Th methods to Radon measurements in caves, researches of glaciers on Svalbards to tectonic grabens in Nigeria, from human impact on karst to protection of some karst areas. Each particular day was dedicated to a defined topic: karst hydrology, problematics of human impact on karst, speleogenesis, cave sediments, glaciology and regional problems and karst protection in Poland.

There were about 30 papers altogether. Slovenia was represented by four researchers with the following titles: The initial development of Škocjanske

jame within the area of collapse doline Velika Dolina (M. Knez); Collapse Chamber in Postojnska jama and its relation to geological structure (S. Šebela); Mineral composition of cave mechanical sediments and their origin (N. Zupan Hajna); The complete karst model (F. Šušteršič).

All the lecturers placed great emphasis on fact that without understanding the karst law relation environment protection, safeguarding of water potentials and other measures are practically impossible. The papers showed the results and need for further development of science.

The evenings were made agreeable by slides and video-films. The beauties of Ural and caves in ice of polar regions of Svalbards still remain within our recollection.

Our papers well represented Slovenia and I think that to attend the 15th Speleological School was not only interesting and agreeable but also instructive.

The organisers plan to publish the given papers in a special publication.