

2. REPORT ON THE 2001 INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF THE IGCP 448, Besancon, Sept.20-23, 2001

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Project 448 (World Correlation of Karst Ecosystems) had planned two international meetings during year 2001: the first one in Beijing (China), to analyze the subtropical karst ecosystems, and a second one in Besancon (France), more focused in the Mediterranean ecosystems.

The meeting of Besancon held in the frame of 7th International Conference on Limestone Hydrology and Fissured Media. This international conference took place between 20 to 23 of September of 2001. In this meeting almost 187 investigators of the karst media participated, the majority European, who presented 78 scientific communications on several subjects closely related to the objectives of Project 448:

- Data acquisition and measures underground media
- Epikarst investigation - Numerical simulation of flow and transport processes in the karstic media
- Dissolution and speleogenesis
- Vulnerability of the groundwater in karst (definition and mapping)
- Karst of the Jura mountains

The mentioned International Conference on karst was followed of a European Action COST 620 meeting "Vulnerability mapping of carbonate (karst) aquifers" One of the objectives of the Project 448 is, indeed, the human impact (contamination, quarries, civil works, etc.) in the karst ecosystems and, in addition, in the proposal made to UNESCO, it was predicted to show the existence of the Project 448 at the participants in this Action COST and to establish possible scientific contacts.

The Representative of the Spanish Group 448 received the task from project leader (Prof. Yuan Daoxian) to prepare the meeting of Besancon some months ago. The Spanish Representative have prepared the Besancon meeting for the Project 448, with the cooperation of Jacques Mudry (participant for France and organizer of the 7th International Conference on Limestone Hydrology) and the Spanish participants Jesus Vias and Pablo Jimenez. The meeting was celebrated on 21-Sep-2001 at the 19:00 in Amphi Croisot hall of the Université de Franche -Comté, 16 Gray stree, Besancon (France). Aproximately 20-25 karst researcher assisted to the meeting from European universities and research centres. Some assistants at the meeting are participants in the European Action COST 620.

According to the project leader, first, the Spanish Representative explained the objectives, methodological aspects, main ideas, activities and results excepted. Second the Newsletter 2001 of the IGCP 448 was given to the meeting assistants and the presentation of next meeting that it will be celebrated in Nerja (Malaga, Spain) in September 2002, organised by the Spanish chapter, was presented. Finally, although the Spanish Representative indicated that suggestions are welcome, only three were indicated by the participants before or after the meeting:

-Prof. Michel Bakalowicz is not very happy because many meetings of the

Project will be organized on September 2002 (Nerja, Sofia, Postjona) and it is difficult that all the karst researcher can assist. For this reason, Prof. Bakalowicz and his team are studying the possibility of change the meeting in Montpellier for 2003 year.

- Prof. Christophe-Embtonche from the University of Avignon is working with biologist of the karst (specially with pollen) and he shows interest in participate in the project 448.
- Prof. Marco Petita is working in the human impact on Italian karst ecosystem and he also show interested in participate in the Project. He will assist to the Nerja congress next year 2002 in order to participate in the IGCP 448 meeting. He asked about the collaboration procedure and he was informed about this question.