

MEETINGS

The XVIIIth Congress of the Carpathian-Balkan Geological Association

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The XVIIIth Congress of the Carpathian-Balkan Geological Association was held in Serbia on September 3 – 6 2006. It was organized by the Serbian Committee of the CBGA and the Serbian Geological Society in the Sava Centar – the convention center of Belgrade. The Board of the organizing Committee included Prof. Dr. Alexandar Grubić as Chairperson, Academician Stevan Karmata as Vice-chairperson and Prof. Dr. Marko Ercegovac as Secretary General.

During the opening ceremony, two plenary lectures were given: S. Karamata, with "*Origin of the central part of the Balkan Peninsula from Palaeozoic to Tertiary*" and R. Jelenković (together with co-workers A. Kostić, D. Životić and M. Ercegovac) with "*Mineral resources of Serbia*".

A number of 152 attendants in 11 symposia marked the statistics regarding the congress. A large scientific domain, from Paleontology and Stratigraphy to Mineralogy and Petrology and to applied subjects, was the topic of the meeting. The scientific sessions were: S.1. Paleogeography and basin evolution; S.2. Paleontology and stratigraphy; S.3. Metamorphic processes; S.4. Volcanic and plutonic Processes; S.5. Structural geology and tectonics; S.6. Litosphaere structures, seismology and earthquake hazards; S.7. Mineralogy; S.8. Mineral resources and economic geology; S.9. Hidrogeology and geothermal energy; S.10. Engineering geology and geotechnics; S.11. Environmental geology, geodiversity and geoheritage. The 189 abstracts submitted had 483 authors and co-authors and were published in a proceedings volume, with 695 p. (ISBN 86-86053-01-7). Two workshops, "*Project Circum-Pannonian terranes*" and "*Sustainable mineral resources*" were held during the congress, as well as three field excursion.

Scientifically, the contributions at the congress contained several highlights. Those presented here are of course arbitrary and ordered regionally since the CBGA is an association with a strong regional emphasis in South-East Europe. Among others, they included the Circum-Pannonian area, a number of new palaeogeographic and tectonic models, were presented, ranging from Palaeozoic to Cainozoic. These models gave rise to lively discussions among the participants.

After the appearance of a number of important papers on the geology, petrology and tectonics of Albanian ophiolites, a number of contributions dealt with Triassic, Jurassic sediments including lithology, facies, stratigraphy and tectonic implications. Another area of interest was the Apuseni Mts. in Romania, from which a number of new data on sediments, their lithology and stratigraphy, were provided. Regarding the ophiolites, which were already studied in the last years, new investigations showed insights

into alteration processes. Several papers concerned the Serbo-Makedonian massif, in particular the genesis and origin of alkaline volcanics, i.e. lamproites and their geodynamic implications.

During the congress, the council meetings led to important changes for the future activity of the CBGA. Among these, the new Statute of the organization is by far the most significant. New types of membership of CBGA, such as *Collective membership*, *Regular personal membership* and *Honorary membership* were established. The *Geological Society of Montenegro (Podgorica)* and the *CBGA Committee of Romanian Universities* were accepted as new collective members. At present, the member countries are: Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, FYROM, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraina. We encouraged all geological institutions and individuals interested in geosciences to apply as collective or personal members. This will strengthen the importance of CBGA and its influence on geological sciences in the realm of the Alps, the Carpathians and Balkans, the Pannonian Basin and the Dinarides.

The all standing CBGA commissions were cancelled and instead, working groups are constituted and they will represent the scientific connection between countries and people. The working groups consist of scientists from two or more member countries. So far two applications for the working groups were submitted, "*Paleolimnology*" (Dr. N. Krstić from Serbia) and "*Correlation of the Mesozoic lithostratigraphic units of the CBGA area*" (Dr. Geza Csaszar from Hungary). There are also preliminary suggestions for constitution of several new working groups. More applications for working groups by collective and personal members are welcome and will be discussed in the next Council meeting.

The council agreed that the next congress (XIXth) of the CBGA will be held at the School of Geology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece), in the second half of September, 2010. The leaders of the Organizing Committee will be Prof. Dr. Georgios Christofides, as President, and Prof. Dr. Spyros Pavlides, as Secretary General. As the Association is not supported yet from international sources, the Council suggested to the Board to consider the introduction of member fees. This issue should be elaborated and discussed at the next Council meeting.

We are convinced that the new developments, particularly the new Statute, combined with an active participation of the geoscientific community in South-East Europe, will give the CBGA new views and perspective for the future. The new Statute is presented below.



CARPATHIAN BALKAN GEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

STATUTE

1. The Carpathian-Balkan Geological Association (CBGA) is a non-governmental, international scientific, non-political and non profit-making union of geoscientists working in the Carpathian-Balkan and surrounding area. It is affiliated to the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) as a regional organization.
2. The aim of CBGA is to promote and encourage joint fundamental and applied geological research, as well as training and specialization in the Carpathian-Balkan and surrounding area. This concerns virtually all branches of the geological sciences, including geophysics, their environmental implications and other related disciplines.
3. Collective membership, regular personal membership and honorary membership of CBGA are open to geoscientists interested in geology of the area of the Association. Applications for collective membership should be submitted by competent scientific bodies (professional organizations, societies and institutions).
4. The permanent directing bodies of CBGA are the Board and the Council.
5. The Board consists of the President (who serves as its Chairperson), the Secretary General, Vice-President and the Past President of CBGA. In case of necessity, the Past President may be represented by the former Secretary General. The members of the Board have to be members of the Council.
6. The Council consists of one national representative of each member country of CBGA. The national representative is elected by the collective members of each member country.
 - a) The Secretary General is a non-voting member of the Council.
 - b) The Council is responsible to supervise all activities of CBGA, to accept, postpone or reject proposals, and to adopt resolutions. This includes the admittance of new collective members, personal and honorary members, the establishment, modification, canceling of working groups, the organization of CBGA Congress, and publications under the auspices of CBGA.
 - c) The Council takes decision by at least 2/3 of the votes, with a minimum attendance of half of the voting members. If the attendance is less than half of the voting members, additional e-mail voting is required among the rest of the voting members. The Council meets at least once in two years, preferably in the country where the Congress will be held.
 - d) Council Meetings are chaired by the representative of the host country. The chairpersons of working groups are welcome as observers.
7. Activities to attain the aims of CBGA as specified in paragraph 2 are:
 - a) CBGA Congresses are organized every four years, normally between the regular Sessions of the International Geological Congress, by one or more member countries of CBGA. The date and venue of the Congress are approved by the Council on the basis of an application submitted by one or more member countries, at least four years before the proposed date. The Congress may have plenary and/or thematic and poster sessions, seminars, workshops, short courses and field trips.
 - b) Establishing and managing of working groups in view of joint specific problems as defined by their programs. Working groups consist of scientists from two or more member countries. They organize their activities and elect their respective chairpersons by themselves. Working groups have to submit the report of their activity, at least once in the congress period.
 - c) Joint publication of maps, explanatory notes, congress proceedings, data-bases and other scientific products.
 - d) CBGA plays an active role in publishing of the journals of the Association.
8. The President and the Secretary General of CBGA are nominated by the member country that organizes the next Congress, and are approved by the Council. The Vice-President of CBGA is elected by the Council, preferably by the nomination of the member country organizing the following Congress. They stay in duty until the end of the next Congress.
9. The official language of CBGA is English. During the business meetings and other activities, any language can be used if it facilitates better understanding.
10. The logo of CBGA is that of the International Geological Congress („*Geologorum Conventus*“), with an inscription „*Societas Carpatho-Balcanica*“ in the upper part of the inner ring. The year of foundation (1922) is inserted in the central area. In the logo of CBGA Congresses this is replaced by the year and ordinal number of the Congress (e.g. 1989 XIV).
11. In all upcoming issues which have not been regulated in the Statute, the Council has the right to take decisions.
12. Changes in the Statute of CBGA can be proposed by at least one member of the Council, not less than 6 (six) months in advance of Council Meeting. The CBGA Council decides about the proposal, and after the acceptance the IUGS Executive Board approves it. The modified Statute becomes effective preliminarily upon acceptance by the CBGA Council, and definitely upon approval by the IUGS Executive Board.

Belgrade, September 5, 2006