

THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE ROMANIAN NATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL COMMITTEE

Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest, January 16, 2010

The Meeting, organised jointly by the National Geographical Committee and the Institute of Geography, was attended by fifty representatives from university centres and profile research institutions as follows: Universitatea de Bucharest; *Alexandru Ioan Cuza* University of Iași; *Babeș-Bolyai* University of Cluj-Napoca; West University, Timișoara; Oradea University; Academy of Economic Studies, Bucharest; *Valahia* University, Târgoviște; University of Craiova; *Spiru Haret* University, Bucharest; *Hyperion* University, Bucharest; *Ștefan cel Mare* University, Suceva; Romanian-American University, Bucharest; *Dimitrie Cantemir* Christian University, Sibiu; *Ovidius* University, Constanța; *Traian* University, Deva; the Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation; Bucharest School Inspectorate; Institute of Education Sciences, Bucharest; Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest; and CD PRESS Publishing-house.

Chairmen: by Prof. Dan Bălțeanu, member of the Romanian Academy and President of the National Geographical Committee, and Prof. dr. Alexandru Ungureanu, Corresponding Member of the Romanian Academy and Vice-President of the Committee.

Discussions focused on matters of the Romanian geographers' participation in national and international scientific events, geographical education issues and the activity of profile institutions (Romanian Geographical Society, Association of Geomorphologists in Romania, Association of Human Geography Specialists in Romania, Association of Limnology in Romania and Professional Association of Geographers in Romania).

Some of the main ideas contained in the International Charter of Geography-based Education and in the International Declaration of Geography-based Education were also presented. The prestige enjoyed by Romanian Geography abroad is also the merit of students who have obtained exceptional results in international Olympic competitions. Romania has little representation in the IGU Commissions and in order to remedy this situation, increasing international contacts would be an efficient move. Someone proposed the resumption of gatherings between specialists from various areas, that used to be convened systematically in the past; at the same time, mass-media channels ought to be approached in promoting this discipline, simultaneously with having the content of school-books improved. The teachers' continuous education would be a useful undertaking.

Bianca (Dumitrescu)

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL "NATURAL HAZARDS AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN MOUNTAIN REGIONS", THE TENTH EDITION

Pătărlagele, Buzău County, July 19-25, 2010

The Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy, in collaboration with the National Romanian Committee for Global Environmental Change, has been annually organising an International Summer School on *Environmental Hazards and Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions* at Pătărlagele (Buzău County).

The aim of this event has been to debate environmental change issues entailed by human activity in environmentally vulnerable regions, more precisely in some landslide-affected Curvature Subcarpathian areas.

International Summer School courses (July 19–25, 2010) were attended by young people from Poland, Italy, Venezuela, Sweden, Romania etc. and delivered by Prof. Dan Bălțeanu, Prof. Lucian Badea, PhD. Viorel Chendeș, PhD. Ionuț Șandric, PhD. Josef Pichler, PhD. Mihai Micu and. PhD. Mihaela Sima.

The problems discussed were being sustained by several field trips in Buzău County at Malu Alb – Muchea cu Fluturi, in the Muscel Valley, the Buzău Mountains and the Subcarpathian area.

The idea was to correlate modern GIS and GPS techniques with surveys on the ground, to become acquainted with water and sediment sampling techniques and with the geomorphological mapping principles.

At the end of the Workshop, a number of papers were awarded five prizes named after renowned personalities of Romanian Geography: Simion Mehedinți Prizes, Vintilă Mihăilescu Prizes, Victor Tufescu Prizes, Gheorghe Niculescu Prizes and Liviu Constantinescu Prizes.

All in all, the ten editions held so far have attracted nearly 200 MA and PhD students, young researchers from different fields there by enabling to a useful exchange of experience.

Loredana-Elena Mic

THE SEVENTH TURKISH-ROMANIAN SEMINAR

1–9 June, Kemer – Antalya, Turkey

The Seminar was held within the framework of the 2nd International Geography Symposium (GEOMED 2010) organized by the Dokuz Eylul and Balıkesir Universities at Kemer-Antalya (Turkey) between June 1-9, 2010.

The three-day proceedings developed within four sections on distinct themes each, and a poster session.

The sixteen papers presented in each section focused on landform, water resources, climate change, man-environment relations, dynamics, land use and soil degradation, natural hazards, regional development and disparities, tourism development, environmental pollution, evolution of natural ecosystems, biodiversity, population evolution, dynamics, and health status, quality of life, human security and sustainable development, geopolitics, the use of GIS techniques, etc.

The field trips on June, 5 included simultaneous two topics: one devoted to the historical and cultural sites of excursions: Perge, The Aspendos Amphitheatre, Side and Antalya's coastal zone; and the Taurus Mountains, and a second with highlight on landscape and its evolution, soils, vegetation, karst forms, and land degradation in the Taurus Mountains. The second trip (Mediterranean Ecosystems Field Tour) took place along the Kemer-Finike-Kaş-Fethye-Korkutelyi-Antalya route between June 6 and 8. Vegetation, soils, karst topography and agriculture were investigated along with associated human-nature interactions.

The Seminar was organized jointly by Dokuz Eylul University – Faculty of Sciences and Letters, and Balıkesir University (Turkey) and the University of Bucharest – Faculty of Geography and Institute of Geography, Bucharest.

The papers presented at the Seminar discussed topics of physical and human geography, tourism and sustainable development. Romanian researchers expounded upon the following problems: *Land use changes, desertification and agriculture in Romania* – Dan Bălțeanu, Monica Dumitrașcu, and Ana Popovici; *Technological hazards and sustainable development of urban ecosystems in the South-West Development Region (Romania)* – Monica Dumitrașcu, Costin Dumitrașcu; *The image of Bucharest a challenging construction process for Romania* – Daniela Dumbrăveanu, Liliana Dumitrache; *Perspectives of rehabilitation through tourism of one-industry towns in Romania* – George Erdeli, Ana Irina Dincă, Bianca Dumitrescu; *Elaboration of climatic maps using GIS. Case study: Olănești drainage basin (Getic Subcarpathians, Romania)* – Laura Târlă; *Development of the Romanian private health care system – premises constraints and consequences* – Liliana Dumitrache, Daniela Dumbrăveanu; *Changing cities: urban restructuring projects in Bucharest for the market economy* – Mariana Nae; *Geomorphological processes and land use in the Putna Catchment (Vrancea Region, Romania)* – Florina Folea Tatu; *Geomorphosites valorization for geotourism and environmental education in the Curvature Carpathians* – Mihaela Dinu, Adrian Cioacă – *Sustainable development prospects for the Danube Delta rural communities* – Nicoleta Damian;

The Seminar was also an opportunity for participants to exchange ideas, establish contacts with professors and researchers from Turkish universities and profile institutions, as well as with those from other countries.

The proceedings of the seventh Turkish-Romanian Seminar will be published in a volume devoted to that event.

Nicoleta Damian