

Joint meeting of the IAG/AIG Working Groups Human Impact on the Landscape (HILS) and Geomorphological Hazards (IAGeomhaz)

Bochum, 8–12 September, 2008

It is central in the policy of the International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG/AIG) to set up Working Groups for the study of topical issues in geomorphology. Accordingly, at the 6th International Conference on Geomorphology In Zaragoza a dozen new WGs were formed, including HILS, initiated by Dénes Lóczy, and IAGeomhaz, led by Irasema **ALCANTARA-ÁYALA**, director of the Institute of Geography at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). There being quite significant overlaps between the research activities planned, it had been proposed that a joint meeting would serve the purposes of both Working Groups.

The event, hosted by the Ruhr University of Bochum, was an optimal occasion to overview the progress both Working Groups had made in the first two years of their existence. The 26 items of the Abstracts volume reflect a combination of mostly related anthropo-geomorphological and geohazards topics, among others, the consequences of mining, flood hazard, the triggering of mass movements. Participants came from seven countries, the remotest of them being Mexico, India and Indonesia.

Two days of paper and poster sessions were followed by discussions on future tasks, including the editing of a World Atlas of Human Impact as an end-product of the activities within the HILS Working Group. An interesting guided walk presented the history of Bochum and the German Coal Mining Museum, providing a unique opportunity to inform about the technological progress and environmental and social implications of mining activities. Two one-day field trips were organized: one to various sites in the Ruhr District and another to the open-cast lignite pits of the Cologne Bight and the Eifel Mountains.

The problems of river restoration, sewage treatment, land drainage, flood control, mine rehabilitation, derelict land re-utilization, volcanic reconstruction and many other issues were discussed with the guidance of experts in the field. A memorable social event was a dinner at a well-preserved farm in the immediate vicinity of the university.

The participants, perfectly satisfied with the program, are grateful to Dr. Stefan **HARNISCHMACHER** (now: University of Koblenz), who invested a lot of work in the successful organization of the meeting.

DÉNES LÓCZY