

# **16<sup>th</sup> Joint Geomorphological Meeting**

## **Morphoevolution of Tectonically Active Belts**

**Rome, July 1-5, 2012**

The Joint Geomorphological Meetings (JGMs) are informal events organized yearly by the official national Geomorphological groups or Associations of Romania, Belgium, France, Greece and Italy (*AGR*, - *Asociata Geomorfologilor din Romania*; *BAG* - *Belgian Association of Geomorphologists*; *GFG* - *Groupe Français de Géomorphologie*; *HCGE* - *Hellenic Committee for Geomorphology and Environment*; *AIGeo* - *Associazione Italiana di Geografia fisica e Geomorfologia*). Their primary aim, as agreed upon by the 5 promoting countries, is to favor exchange of knowledge and to encourage discussion on different geomorphological topics, directly facing the field reality.

The 16<sup>th</sup> JGM was held in Rome, on July 1-5, 2012. This edition was focused on the complex geomorphic responses to tectonics in active belts. This is doubtless an interesting and topical theme, especially for countries, such as Italy, that are often affected by dramatic seismic events.

The 16<sup>th</sup> JGM was warmly and enthusiastically attended by 75 participants, coming from 11 different countries. Among them the IAG Vice-Presidents, Piotr Migoń and Eric Fouache, the IAG Secretary General, Morgan De Dapper, the Executive member, Mauro Soldati, and most of the Presidents of the promoting countries national Associations and groups.

The 16<sup>th</sup> JGM has taken place mainly in the field; therefore we had the first day in the Earth Science Department of Sapienza University of Rome, for the presentation of the solicited lectures, one for each of the promoting countries, and for poster session, held in the Paleontological Museum. The standard of presented lectures and posters confirmed the importance of the selected topic and the awareness that geomorphological studies afford an essential contribution to the comprehension of active tectonics.

During the business meeting of the representatives of the promoting countries, it was discussed the importance of the participation of young geomorphologists to the JGMs and Belgium was proposed and chosen as the organizing country for the next 17<sup>th</sup> JGM. Moreover it was decided to postdate the 17<sup>th</sup> JGM to 2014, due to the imminent and important event of Paris 2013 International Conference on Geomorphology.

The 3 days long field-trip crossed the major Plio-Quaternary intermontane basins of the Central Apennines. Most of the active intra-orogenic seismicity is clustered, in fact, along the axis of the chain, where these intermontane basins originated from the activity of extensional and transtensional faults. We have first observed the remnants one of the most internal Quaternary paleoshoreline of the Tyrrhenian side of central Italy (Fara in Sabina Mts.) and then moved to the Rieti intermontane basin, to discuss about paleolandscape reconstructions and tectonic geomorphology. Then we have visited the sites affected by the L'Aquila earthquake, occurred on April 6, 2009. We have continued the field-trip by seeing amazing examples of stream piracy and drainage inversion on the Middle Aterno Valley and Subequana basin. Then we have moved to the Sulmona basin, where we have seen also wonderful examples of deep seated gravitational slope deformations and rock avalanches. Then we have concluded in the area of Cassino town, with other examples of tectonic landforms. During the field-trip young Italian geomorphologists showed the results of their researches in the field and interesting discussions were undertaken among people from different countries. We received many positive feedbacks about the scientific organization, the accommodation and food all over the joint meeting. For this reason is my great pleasure to express sincere thanks and praise to the Scientific and Organizing Committees and to all the other people who helped for the realization of the meeting.

Selected photographs from the field trip can be viewed at <http://www.16jgm-rome2012.org/photogallery/>

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