



## REPORTS OF MEETINGS

### Business Meeting of the IGU Working Group on Geomorphology of River and Coastal Plains

#### Full Members of the Working Group

Chairman:	J.A.M. ten Cate (The Netherlands)
Vice-Chairman:	M. Oya (Japan)
Ordinary Members:	G.B. Castiglioni (Italy) A. El Gharbaoui (Morocco) E. Falkowski (Poland) Ch. W. Finkl (U.S.A.)

#### REPORT

At the 13th Plenary Meeting of the Commission on Geomorphological Survey and Mapping in Baku, U.S.S.R., June 1978, several proposals were accepted to ensure contact between geomorphologists all over the world and cooperation in geomorphological research. Two of these proposals were: (1) to establish a Sub-Commission on the Geomorphology of River and Coastal Plains (proposed by G.B. Castiglioni, Italy) within the Commission on Geomorphological Survey and Mapping, which should try to set up a research programme and (2) to suggest to the Executive Committee of the International Geographical Union (IGU), on the basis of such a research programme, the establishment of a Commission or Working Group on the Geomorphology of River and Coastal Plains in 1980 at the IGU Congress in Japan.

In 1979 two working meetings of this Sub-Commission were held, one in Poland (organized by E. Falkowski) and one in Italy (organized by M. Panizza) to discuss the provisional research-programme (by J.A.M. ten Cate) which was sent to all members and corresponding members. On the recommendation of the IGU Executive Committee, approved by the 15th General Assembly in Tokyo, September 1980, this Working Group was officially established. During a meeting at the Waseda University in Tokyo (organized by M. Oya) during the IGU Congress the

full members, mentioned above, of the Working Group were elected and later confirmed their appointment. Two ordinary members from Australia and Brazil have not yet confirmed their appointment. Also in Toyko it was decided to hold the first Plenary Meeting of the Working Group in The Netherlands (on the invitation of J.A.M. ten Cate).

At the moment 97 colleagues from 35 countries are registered as Members or Corresponding Members. In order to improve communications and to facilitate decision-making within the IGU (in problems concerning fund raising or any other matter connected with our work) one of the Vice-Presidents of the IGU is "attached" to a number of Commissions and Working Groups. For our Working Group this liaison function is given to J.R. Mackay (Department of Geography, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, V6T 1W5, B.C., Canada).

In three countries National Committees have been created with the aim of ensuring collaboration in the international programme and of promoting new research on the geomorphology of river and coastal plains: Japan, coordinated by M. Oya; Italy, coordinated by G.B. Castiglioni, and The Netherlands, coordinated by J.A.M. ten Cate.

During the business meeting of the Working Group in the Netherlands a further group of five proposals was considered (detailed information about these projects is given in the provisional research programme sent to all members and corresponding members): (1) The composition of a book on the "Geomorphology of Flood-Affected Area of the World. A Global Review in the Form of Country Reports," (2) the production of a Geomorphological Map of Flood-Affected Areas in the World, scale 1:5 million, (3) the compilation of an Atlas of medium and large-scale geomorphological maps of flood-affected areas in different climatic zones with explanatory texts, (4) the development of a drainage basin information system, and (5) to carry out detailed studies of Holocene sediments in flu-

vial and coastal plains and their relations to its morphological features; active river and coastal processes; descriptions of the effects of flood control measures on landforms, etc. After lengthy discussions, the following resolutions were adopted: (a) To start with two projects as only a little time is available before the next Congress in France in 1984 and (b) the first project is the production of a geomorphological map of flood-affected areas and drainage basins of the world, scale 1:5 million. As a basis for this mapping, the topographical map of the American Geographical Society will be used. J.A.M. ten Cate will request this map from the Society via FAO in Rome. The 1:5 million map comprises 16 sheets. This topographic map has already been used for the FAO-UNESCO Soil Map of the World on 1:5 million scale (UNESCO, Paris, 1974). In order to obtain an equal sheet size of 76 x 110 cm, a redistribution has been made over 18 sheets. The map sheets of this Soil Map have been grouped into major regions, each of which is described in a separate volume as follows: I Legend (1 sheet); II North America (2 sheets); III Mexico and Central America (1 sheet); IV South America (2 sheets); V Europe (2 sheets); VI Africa (3 sheets); VII South Asia (2 sheets); VIII North and Central Asia (3 sheets), and IX Australasia (2 sheets). The description of our map can be done in a similar way. This will involve 9 volumes. Part of proposal (1) of the research programme will be so presented in these volumes. A small group of 4 colleagues will first attempt to frame a legend for this map before June 1982. These colleagues are: J. Demek (Czechoslovakia and chairman), G. de Moor (Belgium), Ch.W. Finkl (U.S.A.), and A. Kesik (Canada). In June 1982 this

draft legend will be sent to all members and corresponding members for criticism and for application to one or more drainage basins and/or flood-affected areas on 1:2½ million scale. The draft legend and examples can be discussed at the 1982 and 1983 meeting or by letter. A definitive legend will be distributed before the IGU Congress in France in 1984. Then in the next four years the whole map must be compiled at 1:5 million scale and printed. Financial assistance for this project will be requested from UNESCO, Department of National Resources in Paris. (c) The second project is to compile an Atlas of large and medium scale geomorphological maps 1:50,000 to 1:1 million of areas affected by flooding in the past or in recent time. The Atlas must show examples from different climatic zones of the world. Each map in black and white can be accompanied by 3-5 pages of text. The convenor of this project is J.A.M. ten Cate (The Netherlands), who will ask his Institute about the possibilities of reproducing this Atlas. Details about the manuscript will be sent to all members and corresponding members before the end of 1981 as well as suggestions for publication. The Atlas will be presented at the IGU Congress in France in 1984. Fifteen colleagues have already promised to cooperate in this project. (d) The next meeting of the Working Group will take place in France 1984, at the IGU Congress with a pre-Congress Working Group meeting in Italy and Yugoslavia during one week.

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## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### COASTAL GEOMORPHOLOGY IN GREECE (PELOPONNESOS AND CRETE): PROGRESS OF GERMAN PROGRAMS

German geomorphologists traditionally have focused research along the southeastern Baltic and North Sea coasts, as well as in other countries. During the last decade one main research thrust focused on the eastern Mediterranean, especially in

southern Greece in connection with the "Geodynamic Program" sponsored by the German Research Council and in smaller projects following from it. Inasmuch as most of the results of this field work is published only in German, little information