

Report on the 9th International Conference on Geomorphology (9th ICG)

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This was my first time at the IAG International Conference, for this reason I was really enthusiastic about it. The conference started on the 6th of November in the afternoon with the inaugural ceremony. Prof. Sunil Kumar De gave us the welcome as well as, after him, several Indian institutional authorities. Later, the ceremony for the attribution of the honorary fellowship took place and many prestigious delegates followed one another on the dais. As tradition, the first day of the conference was closed by the cultural program with involving dance performances (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1 Dance performance during the cultural programme of the 9th ICG.

The second day of the conference (7th November) started with the IAG general assembly during which Prof. Mauro Soldati illustrated the numerous IAG activities to support and train young geomorphologists (Fig. 2). The scientific activities of the conference started after the interesting key note speech about geomorphology and society by Michael Crozier who illustrated some impressive

data about how world is changing due to human intervention. After that, several session started. Personally, I was interested in the session “Glacial and periglacial geomorphology” that gathered the highest number of contributions. Extremely fascinating to me was the lecture by Takashi Oguchi about the application of geospatial technologies (e.g. remote sensing, GPS, GIS) in geomorphology. He presented an exhaustive review about the use of these technologies and hypothesis on future evolution of their applications.

During the third day of the conference (8th November) I have attended the continuation of the session “Glacial and periglacial geomorphology”. During the day I also enjoyed the plenary lecture by Francisco Gutierrez about the application of trenching technique, that let me know about the potential of trenching to investigate geological and geomorphological processes (e.g. fault activity). In the same day I have presented my poster entitled “Glaciers’ Fluctuations in the Italian Alps During the Last Glacial Cycle: A Literature Review” (Fig. 3).



Fig. 2 Young geomorphologists who received a IAG/IPA grant to participate in the 9th ICG.

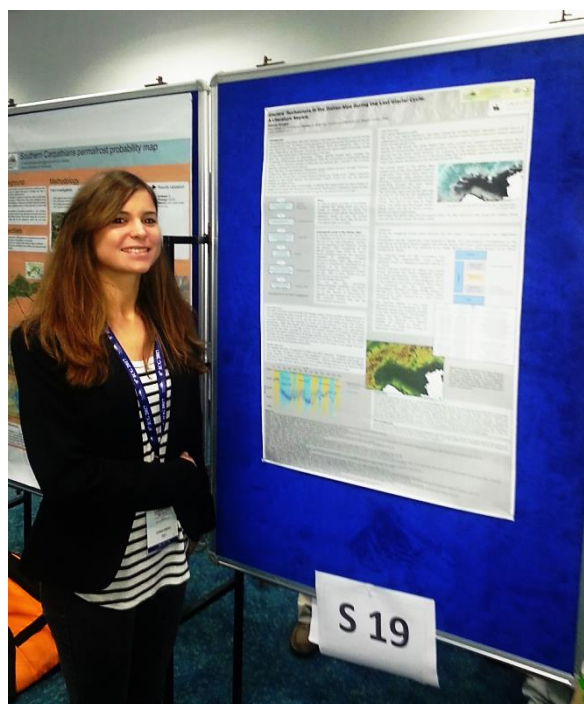


Fig. 3 My poster and I at the “Glacial and periglacial geomorphology” poster session.

On the 9th November I joined the middle-conference trip to visit the outstanding white-marbled Taj Mahal (Fig. 4) and the reddish arenaceous Fort in Agra, located about 200 km from Delhi. The majesty of these buildings was impressive, it is unbelievable to me that man forces could have been able to realize such architectonic structures, transporting building materials for many kilometres from the quarries located out of Agra. I was also really impressed by the attention in the maintenance and enhancement of these monuments and the sense of proudness of locals in showing to visitors such amazing buildings, as symbols of their cultural heritage.

The following day (10th November) I had my oral presentation on the integration of “...geological and industrial heritage for the rehabilitation of dismissed quarry areas in the Northern Apennines, Italy” in the session “Geomorphosites and Geotourism”. The conference ended the following day.

During conference days I had attended several sessions like “Geomorphology and Allied Disciplines: Mutual Contributions for the Progress of Integrated Environmental and Disaster Studies” and the “Young Geomorphologists’ session”. I have listened several oral as well as poster presentations and I have received many inputs on varied field of geomorphology.



Fig. 4 Taj Mahal in Agra.

After the conference was over, we started the IAG-EGU Intensive course on “Geomorphology field training in tectonically active mountain regions for young geomorphologists”. The journey started on the 12th of November when we moved from New Delhi to the Dehradun hill station by bus.

The day after (13th November) was dedicated to lectures by distinguished lecturers among which: Prof. Peter van der Beek, who illustrated to us his researches on lateral variations in topography, exhumation pattern and tectonics in the Himalaya.

We spent the following day (14th November) visiting the Lesser and Frontal Himalaya in Dehradun sector. Prof. Champati Ray, S.L. Chatteraj and S. Kannaujiya explained to us the geological and structural setting of the area as well as its geomorphological features.

During the last day of field trip (15th November), we visited the north-western Doon Valley (Fig. 5) having a closer look on structural landforms and on the effects of active tectonics on the landscape. Impressive to me was the huge landslide (Fig. 6) on the south-exposed slopes near Sataun bridge that is supposed to have been triggered by the mega earthquake event occurred in the region in the XV century AD.

After all the day spent on the field, in the evening, we had a constructive discussion on the assessment of the training course, during which successes have been highlighted as well as weak points and possible improvements for future training activities for young geomorphologist.



Fig. 5 The Giri valley near Sataun village.



Fig. 6 Earthquake-triggered landslide near Sataun.

The day after (16th November) was the time of departures and goodbyes.

In conclusion, the 9th ICG and the related training activities have been useful to improve my skills in communicating research, making new contacts with people working in my research field, getting stimulating inputs on different field of geomorphology and meeting other young geomorphologists from all over world for possible future collaborations. This is why I am very grateful to the Italian Association of Physical Geography and Geomorphology (AIGeo) for their support to participate in my first IAG International Conference.