The XXth Congress of the Carpathian-Balkan Geological Association

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The XXth Congress of the "Carpathian-Balkan Geological Association" was held in Tirana (Albania) from September 24 to September 26, 2014. This Jubilee Congress that took place for the first time in Albania was organized by the Geological Society of Albania in cooperation with the most important and traditional Albanian educational and research institutions: Polytechnic University of Tirana, Geological Survey of Albania, Faculty of Geology and Mining, Institute of Geosciences, Water, Energy and Environment and the Academy of Sciences of Albania. The board members of the Organizing Committee were Prof. Dr. Arjan Beqiraj as Chairperson, Dr. Viktor Doda as Vice-chairperson, Dr. Arben Pambuku as General Secretary and Msc Andreea Uta as Executive Secretary.

The Welcoming Ceremony was opened by the President of the "CBGA 2014", Prof. Dr. Arjan Beqiraj and was greeted by the Rector of the Polytechnic University of Tirana, Acad. Jorgaq Kaçani, the CBGA councilor, Prof. Dr. Corina Ionescu – NR of Romania and the Minister of Energy and Industry of Albania, Mr. Damian Gjiknuri. The participants enjoyed a short video and photo retrospective featuring the research works performed by the Albanian and foreign geologists during the last 70 years.

The XXth CBGA Congress offered a wide and rich program comprising a number of 18 Special Sessions, 8 General Sessions, 3 Workshops and 5 Field Trips organized in different regions of Albania. Per total, 470 short and extended abstracts have been accepted, of which 220 were oral presentations and 250 posters. The abstracts are published in two volumes, as special issues of the Albanian Journal "Buletini i Shkencave Gjeologjike". In addition, a number of 5 field trip guide books was published and distributed to about 150 participants. The contribution of more than 550 participants coming from different countries all over the world made this congress to be an event of high scientific success. By bringing together scientists not only from the CBGA-countries (Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic., Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Greece, Hungary, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine) but also from european and worldwide countries as Algeria, Australia, Canada, China, Cyprus, Egypt, England, France, Georgia, Germany, Iran, Italy, Jordan, Kosovo, Luxembourg, Moldavia, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Russia, South Korea Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, USA, the congress was an excellent opportunity for presentation of outstanding scientific achievements and for a real exchange between scientists passionate by the world of geology and related sciences.

In particular, the participation of young geoscientists in the "CBGA 2014" was strongly encouraged. The Organizing Committee is pleased to confirm that as a result of this policy, about 100 young researchers have submitted abstracts and presented their contributions in the different scientific sessions of the congress.

The CBGA Council meeting held on September 23, 2014, was mostly focused on three topics: i) Expanding of CBGA with other member countries. With the arrival of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, CBGA counts now 16 member countries; ii) Preparations of "CBGA 2014". All the councilors present in the meeting have appreciated the serious and consistent work made by the local organizing Committee for the preparation of the "CBGA 2014"; iii) Nomination of the "CBGA 2018" organizer. The council unanimously agreed that the next congress (XXI^{rst}) of the CBGA will be held in Salzburg (Austria). The President of the Organizing Committee will be Prof. Dr. Franz Neubauer and he will constitute its Organizing Committee and will check for other geological events in order to decide the time when the "CBGA 2018" will be held. The councilors also agreed with the proposal of the The NR of Bulgaria, Prof. Peycheva, who announced that Bulgaria is going to organize the "CBGA 2022".

The Council meeting charged the new President, Prof. Neubauer to be involved with CBGA status improvements, to update the agreements between the CBGA and its official journals, "Geologica Carpathica" and "Geologica Balcanica" and to maintain regular reports with IUGS.

Several participants of CBGA2014 congratulated us for the organization of the congress during the days of the scientific sessions and the closing ceremony. Other colleagues sent us their positive impressions concerning the organization of the congress and field trips. The Organizing Committee is really pleased that reached to organize such a successful congress of CBGA, thus saving its long-term tradition as one of the best geoscience events in Europe.

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