

## International Summer School on Rockslides and Related Phenomena in the Kokomeren River Valley (Kyrgyzstan)



Rockslides (bedrock landslides) are among the most hazardous natural phenomena in mountainous regions. Though relatively rare, in comparison with landslides in non-lithified soils, they pose a threat to the vast areas due to enormous amount of material involved (sometimes up to billions of cubic meters), high mobility of debris and ability to create large natural dams, which result in inundation of the valleys upstream and catastrophic outburst floods downstream. Similar rock slope failures occur sometimes in large open cast mines. The aim of the International Summer School is to demonstrate rockslides of different types – long runout rock avalanches, intact and eroded rockslide dams, along with various methods of their study (identification, mapping, dating, detail analysis of rockslide internal structure and grain-size composition) to students and young landslide researchers.

Numerous rockslides and rock avalanches of different types ranging from few millions to more than 1 billion cubic meters in volume are concentrated in the [Kokomeren River valley](#) (Central Tien Shan) within a limited area of about 30×60 km at a one-day trip distance from Bishkek city – capital of Kyrgyzstan. Most of sites are located near a road along the Kokomeren River and require only few hours of hiking to reach them. Due to arid climate and lack of vegetation rockslides' morphology is well preserved and clearly visible. Some of rockslide deposits up to 400 m thick are deeply dissected by erosion that allows studying their internal structure in detail. Evidence of valley inundation caused by rockslide damming and of associated outburst floods present in the valley as well. Along with the bedrock slope failures several very large landslides in non-lithified Neogene and Quaternary deposits can be found in the adjacent neotectonic depressions.

Besides rockslides and landslides, the study area provides expressive manifestations of Neotectonics and Quaternary tectonics such as active faults, one of which was ruptured during the 1992 M7.3 Suusamyr earthquake, and numerous examples of tilted and folded pre-Neogene planation surface. One of the topics of the training course is to describe the paleoseismology of the region, paleoseismological interpretation of rockslides in particular.

The annual [International Summer School](#) supported by ICL (<http://www.iclhq.org>) has been organized since 2006. Previous field training courses were attended by participants from Argentina, Austria, Belgium, China (including Hong Kong), Czech Republic, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, New Zealand, Russia, Switzerland, Spain, Tajikistan and USA.

The **2014** training course will be carried out on **August 1-16**. The participation fee is **EURO 450**, which include all costs at the site: camping (in tents; though some tents can be provided by organizers, participants will be asked to bring their own tents and sleeping bags), food, local transportation, detailed full-color guidebook. Organizers will provide help obtaining visas if necessary. **Participants should arrive to Bishkek not later than August 1 (early morning)**. They will be picked up at the arrival desk of the Bishkek airport. Bishkek is connected with Moscow, London, Istanbul, Urumchi, Hong Kong, Dubai, Ulan-Bator by direct flights. Arrival via Almaty airport is possible as well.

Participation fee (EURO 450 or equal amount in the US dollars or Russian roubles) should be paid by cash at the participants' arrival. Organizers will provide cash receipt vouchers and certificates confirming attendance at the ICL field training course.

Summer School guidebook can be downloaded from the International Consortium on Landslides homepage: [http://www.iclhq.org/Summer\\_School\\_Guidebook-2009.pdf](http://www.iclhq.org/Summer_School_Guidebook-2009.pdf) or can be provided upon request by Dr. Alexander Strom.

**Those who are interested, please contact:**

Dr. Alexander Strom Geodynamics Research Centre – branch of JSC “Hydroproject Institute” Volokolamskoe Shosse, 2, 125993, Moscow, Russia e-mail: <a href="mailto:a_strom2002@yahoo.co.uk">a_strom2002@yahoo.co.uk</a> ; <a href="mailto:strom.alexandr@yandex.ru">strom.alexandr@yandex.ru</a>	Dr. Kanatbek Abdrahmatov Institute of Seismology, National Academy of Science, Asanbay 52/1, Bishkek 720060, Kyrgyzstan e-mail: <a href="mailto:kanab53@yandex.ru">kanab53@yandex.ru</a>
---	--