IPL Project 106-2 Report for the period of 2017-2019

1 January 2017 to 31 December 2019

1. Project Title. International Summer School on Rockslides and Related Phenomena in the Kokomeren River Valley, Tien Shan, Kyrgyzstan

2. Main Project Fields: Capacity Building

3. Name of Project leader. Alexander Strom

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   Core members of the Project: Kanatbek Abdrakhmatov, Director of Kyrgyz Institute of Seismology (KIS)

4. Objectives: Demonstration of various types of catastrophic bedrock landslides and of their identification and study methods to students and young landslide researchers from different countries.

5. Study Area: Kokomeren River basin, Central Tien Shan, Kyrgyzstan

6. Project Duration: started in 2008 (as an extension of the M111 and M126 Projects; the Summer School had started in 2006). We plan to continue in 2020 as well.

7. Report

   Progress in the project: The Kokomeren Summer School has been organized annually. In 2017 it took place on August 05-20, in 2018 – on August 15-30, and in 2019 – on August 03-18.

   In 2017 we had 16 participants: 2 from Kyrgyzstan, 1 from Kazakhstan, 1 from Uzbekistan, 1 from Tajikistan, 1 from Poland, 2 from Russia, 2 from Japan, 2 from Belgium, and 4 from Austria.

   In 2018 we had 23 participants: 2 from Kyrgyzstan, 1 from Kazakhstan, 1 from Uzbekistan, 1 from Tajikistan, 1 from Argentina, 2 from Japan, 2 from Belgium, 6 from Austria, 3 from Germany, 2 from Czech Republic (one of them is from Slovakia), 1 from Slovenia and 1 from Korea.

   In 2019 we had 21 participants: 2 from Kyrgyzstan, 1 from Kazakhstan, 1 from Uzbekistan,
1 from Tajikistan, 7 from China, 1 from Belgium, 1 from UK, 2 from Germany, 1 from Czech Republic (student from Slovakia), 1 from India, 1 from Norway, 1 from Switzerland and 1 from Russia.

During all reported period, every year expenses of 4 participants, by one from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, were covered by the UNESCO Almaty cluster office.

Based on data collected during these field training courses some additional information was repeatedly added to the Summer School Guidebook that is available at the IPL/ICL website. Hard copies of the Guidebook that were provided to each participant were printed in Hydroproject Institute in Moscow. The announcements were published in Landslides Journal. Besides they were available on the ResearchGate (https://www.researchgate.net/) and in Risky Ground newsletters (http://www.sfu.ca/cnhr/news_events/newsletter.html).

Planned future activities or Statement of completion of the Project. The 2020 Summer School will be carried out in August 01-15. Participants from all over the World are welcomed. We hope that the coronavirus pandemia will be finished at that time and will not prevent our activity.

8) Beneficiaries of Project for Science, Education and/or Society: Researchers and practitioners working in the fields of landslide hazard and risk assessment and mitigation.

9) Results: Since 2006, when we carried out our first Kokomeren Summer School on Rockslides and Related Phenomena, it was attended by 150 participants from Argentina, Austria, Belgium, China (including Hong Kong), Czech Republic, France, Germany, Great Britain, India, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Spain, Taiwan, Tajikistan, USA and Uzbekistan. Demonstration of various morphological and structural peculiarities of large-scale bedrock landslides and of the geological, seismological and geomorphic conditions favorable for their formation directly in the field, in the arid, vegetation-free terrain and at the outcrops appeared to be very efficient teaching tool. The detailed full-color Guidebook prepared for the Summer School served as a starting point for preparation of the monograph "Rockslides and rock avalanches of Central Asia: distribution, morphology, and internal structure" published in 2018 by Elsevier (ISBN: 978-0-12-803204-6).